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TUSHAR GANDHI FIRM

'Will not apologise for remarks against RSS'

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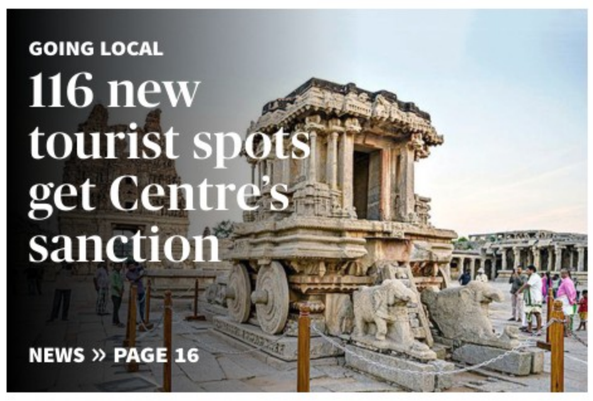

GOING LOCAL

116 new tourist spots get Centre's sanction

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Hamas ready to free Israeli-U.S. hostage

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ROW IN MAHARASHTRA

A school closure that must be called out

The only Gondi-medium school needs support

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THE BIG GAME

MI takes on DC in WPL summit clash

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

City sees hottest day of the year

BENGALURU
The city on Friday recorded the hottest day of the year so far. The maximum temperature breached the 35°C mark for the first time this summer. It was 35.4°C in Bengaluru city, 35.6°C at HAL Airport, and 35.5°C at Kempegowda International Airport.» Page 4

Court rejects Ranya's bail plea

BENGALURU
The Special Court for Economic Offences on Friday dismissed the bail petition of Ranya Rao, who was arrested by the DRI after she was caught smuggling 14.2 kg gold at Kempegowda International Airport on March 3. » Page 5

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGES 8 & 9

T.N. covers Centre's ₹2,000 cr. share for Samagra Shiksha

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Thangam Thennarasu

Prioritising the welfare of schoolchildren, Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu on Friday announced that the State government has allocated funds from its exchequer to compensate for ₹2,152 crore withheld by the Centre under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

The Centre has withheld the funds as the State refused to onboard the PM SHRI scheme that mandates implementation of National Education Policy (NEP) in its entirety. Last month, describing NEP as a regressive policy that would take the State backward by 2,000 years, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had declared that he would not implement it even if the Centre disbursed ₹10,000 crore with such a mandate.

Presenting the Budget 2025-26, Mr. Thennarasu said the Centre has withheld the approved amount of ₹2,152 crore citing the State's non-acceptance of NEP, which includes the three-language policy. "Despite this, keeping in mind the welfare of students, the State government has allocated funds, including salaries of teachers, from its own resources to ensure that the education of government school students remains unaffected."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

India hits out at Pakistan, denies role in train attack

The whole world knows where the epicentre of global terrorism lies, says MEA spokesperson after Islamabad alleged that Baloch rebels used Indian, Afghan weapons in the Jaffar Express ambush

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Islamabad should "look inwards" instead of pointing fingers and shifting blame, India said in its first official comment after an attack on a Quetta-Peshawar train by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) left 21 passengers dead. At least 33 Baloch rebels were killed by Pakistan security forces.

India pushed back against allegations made by the Pakistan Foreign Office and military establishment, who claimed that the Baloch militants were receiving support from India and Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. This was the largest attack by the Baloch rebels in nearly two decades.

Rebel strike: Soldiers board a relief train to help people affected in the militant attack in Mach, Balochistan, Pakistan. REUTERS

"We strongly reject the baseless allegations made by Pakistan. The whole world knows where the epicentre of global terrorism lies. Pakistan should look inwards instead of pointing fingers and shifting the blame for its own internal problems and failures on others," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

Earlier, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan blamed the attack on India. "India has been involved in terrorism in Pakistan in the particular attack on Jaffar Express," he alleged, adding that "the terrorists had been in contact with their handlers and ring leaders in Afghanistan".

Pakistan continued this refrain on Friday, with the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director-General Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry amplifying the Pakistan Foreign Office's attempt to blame India as the main sponsor of terrorism in Balochistan.

In a media briefing, Mr. Chaudhry alleged that the BLA's fighters had used Afghan and Indian weapons in the attack on the Jaffar Express, which connects Quetta with Peshawar.

Mr. Chaudhry claimed that none of the hostages were harmed during the two-day operation that began on Tuesday and concluded on Wednesday.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Pinarayi backs Stalin's push against delimitation

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has expressed solidarity with the Tamil Nadu government's efforts to unite non-BJP-ruled States on a common platform to resist any move by the Union government for arbitrary delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies, which contravenes the Constitution's federalist principles and allegedly seeks to favour the ruling coalition at the Centre.

He put forward Kerala's stance on the issue to DMK leaders during their visit on Friday to invite Mr. Vijayan to the Joint Action Committee that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is spearheading to bring together leaders from States likely to be affected by the delimitation.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 11

Shivakumar hints at water tariff hike by one paisa per litre in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is also in charge of Bengaluru Development, on Friday said he had directed officials to revise the tariff by at least one paisa per litre of Cauvery water supplied to the city.

He said the tariff had not been hiked since 2014. Given the mounting losses, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board had suggested a seven to eight-paise hike per litre. "We, however, are contemplating revising the tariff by one paisa per litre. We will discuss the issue with the city legislators before taking a decision," he told the Legislative Council while responding to Congress legislator Ramoji Gowda, who had urged the government to provide Cauvery water to homes in light of onset of Summer.

Water tariff increase will be discussed with city legislators before a decision is taken, according to the Deputy Chief Minister. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The Deputy Chief Minister also said the yearly losses of the Board had gone over ₹1,000 crore. Mr. Shivakumar also said the government would be taking over water tankers this summer as well. "The water tanker business has become a mafia. Plans are also being drawn to fill up lakes in Bengaluru with treated water to improve the ground water table."

Looking at alternatives

He also said the BWSSB was looking at an alternative to pumping Cauvery water to Bengaluru from Torekadanahalli as it results in an annual loss of about 3 tmcft, besides incurring a huge power bill to pump water. Among other measures taken to improve water availability in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Currently, property owners are paving the three-foot building setback available to them in the properties. We will make it mandatory to keep it open for water percolation."

The Deputy Chief Minister also said that from March 22, Save Water Day, a month-long campaign would be organised to create awareness about conserving water. He pointed out that during the summer of last year, nearly 7,000 borewells dried up in the city causing acute water scarcity.

Festival of colours

Exuberant: The young and the old having a ball during Holi celebration outside Seshadripuram Shri Govardhan Nath Haveli temple in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

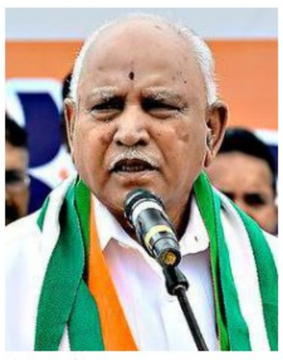
POCSO case: HC stays trial court order of taking cognisance of offences against BSY

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday stayed the trial court's order of taking cognisance of offences against former Chief Minster B.S. Yediyurappa based on the chargesheet filed under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, on the allegation of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl at his residence in February 2024.

Justice Pradeep Singh Yerur passed the interim order on a petition filed by Mr. Yediyurappa.

The interim order would be in force till adjudication of the petition by the High Court. Mr. Yediyurappa had challenged the FIR registered on March 14, 2024, on the alleged incident that occurred on February 2, 2024, the chargesheet filed by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and the February 28, 2025, order of taking cognisance of offences afresh by the trial court.



B. S. Yediyurappa. FILE PHOTO

The trial court had passed the order of taking cognisance afresh based on the February 7, 2025, order passed by the High Court, which had termed the July 4, 2024, order of the trial court in taking cognisance of offences as "bald, laconic and cryptic" while directing the trial court to pass the order afresh in terms of the law elucidated by the apex court, under Section 190(1)(b) of the Cr. PC based on the chargesheet submitted by the CID.

While staying the February 28 order of taking cognisance of offences and summoning the accused persons, the High Court said Mr. Yediyurappa and other accused were also exempted from personally appearing before the trial court till adjudication of their petitions as such an order was existing since July 2024.

It was argued by senior advocate C.V. Nagesh on behalf of Mr. Yediyurappa that the complaint was lodged after a delay of about a month, and in fact, no incident of sexual assault took place. All the witnesses, including the president of the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association, who were present at the residence of Mr. Yediyurappa on February 2, 2024, had stated that no such incident of sexual assault took place, as was alleged in the complaint, lodged by the girl's mother, and in the statement given by the victim.

Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty opposed staying proceedings before the trial court while pointing out that the High Court, in the February 7 order, had found fault only with the manner in which the cognisance was taken, and had clearly stated that the materials filed against the accused in the chargesheet required to be tested in a full-blown trial.

The High Court also stayed proceedings against other accused, who are facing allegation of bribing the complainant to close the case.

More 5-minute frequency metro trains to run on Purple Line

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After complaints from several commuters about the low frequency of trains resulting in overcrowding, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has advanced the starting time of the five-minute frequency trains from 5.56 p.m. to 3.56 p.m. between ITPL and Mysuru Road on the Purple Line. This came into effect on March 13.

Hitherto, the trains were running at a 10-minute frequency. The five-minute frequency services will run from 3.56 p.m to 8 p.m., and this is expected to benefit several IT workers, students, and other commuters.

The increased number of services is expected to reduce the crowding at metro stations. FILE PHOTO

"After so many complaints for so long, the frequency of trains has finally been increased for this period. However, with the fare increase, the BMRCL should also prioritise passenger convenience and increase the train frequency across the operating hours," said Myna K., a regular commuter from K.R. Puram. After the recent fare hike, the metro ridership had fallen by almost a lakh a day on average.

The drop was almost 40 lakh between January and February. In January, the ridership was 2,49,14,736, whereas in February, it came down to 2,09,90,894.

GETTY IMAGES

As the plot of a new Formula One season begins to simmer, here's what to look out for

2025 is a landmark year for the most prestigious motor-racing series on the planet — the 75th anniversary of the championship. Sandwiched between a hotly contested 2024 and a step-into-the-unknown 2026, the upcoming season could be one for the ages

S. Dipak Ragav

Just a year ago, before the 2024 Formula One season started, there was a sense of trepidation about where the sport was heading. Red Bull had come off a sensational season, winning 21 of 22 races, and fears of one team dominating F1 for the foreseeable future felt very real.

However, things changed dramatically in the space of six months. Although Max Verstappen still managed to clinch his fourth straight drivers' crown, he was made to work hard for it. McLaren became a force to reckon with, displacing Red Bull from its perch, and claimed the constructors' title for the first time since 1998.

As a result, the 2025 season has sparked a lot of excitement. It is a landmark year for the most prestigious motor-racing series on the planet – the 75th anniversary of the championship, which started in 1950 with the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

Ahead of this weekend's season-opener in Melbourne, *The Hindu* looks at some key plotlines that could define the year.

Will this be the end of Max's era?

Last year, when Verstappen won seven of the first 10 races, he would hardly have foreseen the need to mine every last reserve of his talent to seal his fourth title. The Red Bull was a tricky car and needed someone of Verstappen's calibre to extract performance from it.

This year will be an acid test for Red Bull. Can it produce a race-winning car without Newey? If the team doesn't get its act together, it could risk losing Verstappen

As long as it enjoyed a significant advantage over its rivals, the inherent weakness in the machinery was manageable. But once the others – mainly McLaren – stepped up, Red Bull stood exposed. And after McLaren became the front-runner, Lando Norris began to make it something of a title fight even as Verstappen's frustration grew.

Parting ways with technical wizard Adrian Newey, the architect of Red Bull's success since joining the outfit in 2006, made the season trickier for the team. Newey has since revealed that the engineering group failed to heed his warnings about the weakness in the car. The design genius was an important reason Verstappen had signed a long-term deal until 2028.

This year will be an acid test for the outfit. Can it produce a race-winning product without Newey at the helm? More to the point, this year's development curve will be an indication of whether Red Bull is ready for the significant rules shake-up next year. If the technical department does not get its act together, the team could risk losing its star driver.

Does Norris have what it takes?

While Verstappen emerged triumphant in 2024, runner-up Norris did his reputation plenty of good. Once McLaren gave him a top-end car, he produced eye-catching performances. He won four races, stepped onto the podium on nine other occasions and was instrumental in his squad clinching the constructors' title.

There were, however, chinks in his armour that stopped him from ever becoming a serious contender. Norris was especially impressive in qualifying, taking eight poles, proof of his outright speed. But his failure to convert them, often fluffing the starts, held him back.

Crucially, in wheel-to-wheel battles, especially against Verstappen, Norris was often second best. The 25-year-old later admitted that he needed to get his elbows out. He also had a few off-weekends when he was still in the title picture, his inexperience showing.

Sifting through pre-season testing times, it appears as though McLaren will start favourite, after executing a smooth programme over three days in Bahrain. This year could just be Norris' golden chance to go one better.

The threat within McLaren

Having two top-drivers in a team in a championship fight can be a recipe for disaster. Norris will be acutely aware of this even as he keeps an eye on his teammate across the garage. For, Oscar Piastri has already exhibited signs of being one to watch out for. In his sophomore season last year, the Australian won two races, significantly improving his tyre-management skills.

He was also sharp in on-track battles, his best moment an audacious first-lap move on Norris in Monza. If Piastri can show the same level of improvement as last year – and there certainly is room for it in his qualifying performances – the intra-team battle will get very interesting. McLaren extended Piastri's contract this week, a vote of confidence in the 23-year-old's abilities. The last thing Norris would want is his colleague taking points off him.

Hamilton's scarlet switch

Lewis Hamilton's switch to Ferrari is the defining move in F1 this century. The most decorated driver joining the most illustrious team is a dream match-up. The expectations are sky high as he chases a record eighth drivers' crown.

But, at the same time, the British driver has been far from his best over the last few years at Mercedes. Since the ground-effect cars came into being in 2022, the Mercedes, with its very narrow operating window, has not been to Hamilton's liking.

Although he won two races last year, it was evident that he did not have the outright pace his teammate George Russell did. Hamilton, who even admitted he was probably no longer as fast as he was in his prime, is stepping into a Ferrari built around Charles Leclerc.

The 27-year-old Monegasque was by far the second-best driver on the grid last year behind Verstappen and is at the peak of his game. At 40, Hamilton doesn't have much time left in the sport and needs to hit the ground running if he harbours any hope of getting back to the top.

Having two top-drivers in a team in a championship fight can be a recipe for disaster. Norris will be acutely aware of this even as he keeps an eye on Piastri across the garage

The early rounds will show where Hamilton stands relative to Leclerc, currently considered the fastest driver over a lap. If the seven-time champion is within a few tenths of his teammate in qualifying, he will back himself to make it up in the races.

Much depends, however, on whether the Prancing Horse can build on its progress last year. It finished strongly, but some of its strength was circuit-specific. It remains to be seen whether the Ferrari can be at the sharp-end at all the tracks this year.

Stick or twist: the developmental conundrum

2025 will be the last year of the current technical regime. Next year, F1 will have new aero and engine regulations that include active aerodynamics and sustainable fuels.

The year before a significant rules shake-up is always the toughest for the teams. They need to develop the car for the ongoing season without compromising the preparation for the following year, which requires substantial resources.

It will be doubly difficult for the teams fighting for glory. Do they try to win when they are competitive and risk falling behind in 2026, or give up an opportunity now by gambling on getting it right next year?

At the same time, a new rules cycle also resets the established order and provides an opportunity for teams down the grid to give up a year and focus on their next campaign. The stakes involved in the decision-making will heighten both the thrill of this season and the anticipation of the next.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	11,330	16
2	Alexander Zverev	27	8,135	22
3	Carlos Alcaraz	21	7,510	18
4	Taylor Fritz	27	4,900	22
5	Casper Ruud	26	4,045	25
6	Daniil Medvedev	29	3,930	20
7	Novak Djokovic	37	3,900	19
8	Andrey Rublev	27	3,480	28
9	Stefanos Tsitsipas	26	3,405	23
10	Alex de Minaur	26	3,335	23
11	Tommy Paul	27	3,330	20
12	Ben Shelton	22	2,880	24
13	Holger Rune	21	2,820	23
14	Jack Draper	23	2,810	20
15	Grigor Dimitrov	33	2,745	19

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 132 ▼ 1 spot

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 444 ▲ 4 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	26	9,076	20
2	Iga Swiatek	23	7,985	17
3	Coco Gauff	20	6,333	21
4	Jessica Pegula	31	5,251	18
5	Madison Keys	30	4,679	19
6	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,518	18
7	Elena Rybakina	25	4,328	19
8	Emma Navarro	23	4,009	25
9	Qinwen Zheng	22	3,780	20
10	Paula Badosa	27	3,746	22
11	Mirra Andreeva	17	3,720	18
12	Daria Kasatkina	27	3,116	24
13	Diana Shnaider	20	2,908	28
14	Danielle Collins	31	2,823	17
15	Karolina Muchova	28	2,734	16

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 294 ▼ 2 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 301 ▲▼ No change

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	29	21	7	1	69	27	42	70
2	Arsenal	28	15	10	3	52	24	28	55
3	N. Forest	28	15	6	7	45	33	12	51
4	Chelsea	28	14	7	7	53	36	17	49
5	Man. City	28	14	5	9	53	38	15	47
6	Newcastle	28	14	5	9	47	38	9	47
7	Brighton	28	12	10	6	46	40	6	46
8	Aston Villa	29	12	9	8	41	45	-4	45
9	Bournemouth	28	12	8	8	47	34	13	44
10	Fulham	28	11	9	8	41	38	3	42
11	Crystal Palace	28	10	9	9	36	33	3	39
12	Brentford	28	11	5	12	48	44	4	38
13	Tottenham	28	10	4	14	55	41	14	34
14	Man. United	28	9	7	12	34	40	-6	34
15	Everton	28	7	12	9	31	35	-4	33
16	West Ham	28	9	6	13	32	48	-16	33
17	Wolves	28	6	5	17	38	57	-19	23
18	Ipswich Town	28	3	8	17	26	58	-32	17
19	Leicester City	28	4	5	19	25	62	-37	17
20	Southampton	28	2	3	23	20	68	-48	9

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	28	18	7	3	63	27	36	61
2	Napoli	28	18	6	4	45	23	22	60
3	Atalanta	28	17	7	4	63	26	37	58
4	Juventus	28	13	13	2	45	25	20	52
5	Lazio	28	15	6	7	50	36	14	51
6	Bologna	28	13	11	4	44	34	10	50
7	Roma	28	13	7	8	43	30	13	46
8	Fiorentina	28	13	6	9	43	30	13	45
9	AC Milan	28	12	8	8	42	32	10	44
10	Udinese	28	11	7	10	35	38	-3	40
11	Torino	28	8	11	9	33	34	-1	35
12	Genoa	28	7	11	10	26	36	-10	32
13	Como	28	7	8	13	34	44	-10	29
14	Cagliari	28	6	8	14	28	43	-15	26
15	Verona	28	8	2	18	28	58	-30	26
16	Lecce	28	6	7	15	20	46	-26	25
17	Parma	28	5	9	14	34	48	-14	24
18	Empoli	28	4	10	14	23	45	-22	22
19	Venezia	28	3	10	15	23	42	-19	19
20	Monza	28	2	8	18	23	48	-25	14

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	26	18	3	5	71	25	46	57
2	Real Madrid	27	17	6	4	57	26	31	57
3	Atletico Madrid	27	16	8	3	44	18	26	56
4	Athletic Bilbao	27	13	10	4	45	24	21	49
5	Villarreal	26	12	8	6	48	36	12	44
6	Real Betis	27	11	8	8	35	33	2	41
7	Real Mallorca	27	10	7	10	26	33	-7	37
8	Rayo Vallecano	27	9	9	9	29	29	0	36
9	Celta Vigo	27	10	6	11	40	41	-1	36
10	Sevilla	27	9	9	9	32	36	-4	36
11	Real Sociedad	27	10	4	13	23	28	-5	34
12	Getafe	27	8	9	10	23	22	1	33
13	Girona	27	9	6	12	35	40	-5	33
14	Osasuna	26	7	12	7	32	37	-5	33
15	Espanyol	26	7	7	12	25	37	-12	28
16	Valencia	27	6	9	12	30	45	-15	27
17	Leganes	27	6	9	12	24	40	-16	27
18	Alaves	27	6	8	13	30	40	-10	26
19	Las Palmas	27	6	6	15	30	45	-15	24
20	Real Valladolid	27	4	4	19	18	62	-44	16

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	25	19	4	2	74	23	51	61
2	Leverkusen	25	15	8	2	55	30	25	53
3	Mainz	25	13	5	7	42	26	16	44
4	E. Frankfurt	25	12	6	7	51	39	12	42
5	SC Freiburg	25	12	5	8	34	36	-2	41
6	RB Leipzig	25	10	9	6	39	33	6	39
7	Wolfsburg	25	10	8	7	49	39	10	38
8	Stuttgart	25	10	7	8	44	39	5	37
9	M'gladbach	25	11	4	10	39	38	1	37
10	Dortmund	25	10	5	10	45	39	6	35
11	FC Augsburg	25	9	8	8	28	35	-7	35
12	Werder	25	9	6	10	38	49	-11	33
13	Hoffenheim	25	6	8	11	32	47	-15	26
14	Union Berlin	25	7	5	13	22	38	-16	26
15	St Pauli	25	6	4	15	19	30	-11	22
16	Bochum	25	5	5	15	26	49	-23	20
17	Holstein Kiel	25	4	5	16	37	61	-24	17
18	Heidenheim	25	4	4	17	28	51	-23	16

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	895	932
2	Harry Brook	876	898
3	Kane Williamson	867	919
4	Yashasvi Jaiswal	847	854
5	Steve Smith	823	947
6	Temba Bavuma	769	769
7	Kamindu Mendis	761	779
8	Travis Head	748	884
9	Usman Khawaja	739	847
9	Rishabh Pant	739	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	908	908
2	Kagiso Rabada	837	902
3	Pat Cummins	824	914
4	Josh Hazlewood	818	864
5	Nathan Lyon	812	812
6	Noman Ali	806	806
7	Marco Jansen	785	803
8	Matt Henry	782	782
9	Prabath Jayasuriya	751	801
10	Ravindra Jadeja	745	899

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	784	847
2	Babar Azam	770	898
3	Rohit Sharma	756	882
4	Heinrich Klaasen	744	760
5	Virat Kohli	736	909
6	Daryl Mitchell	721	750
7	Harry Tector	713	767
8	Shreyas Iyer	704	710
9	Charith Asalanka	694	694
10	Ibrahim Zadran	676	693

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Maheesh Theekshana	680	686
2	Mitchell Santner	657	657
3	Kuldeep Yadav	650	761
4	Keshav Maharaj	648	741
5	Bernard Scholtz	646	648
6	Matt Henry	642	691
7	Rashid Khan	640	799
8	Gudakesh Motie	632	639
9	Shaheen Afridi	619	696
10	Ravindra Jadeja	616	733

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Travis Head	856	885
2	Abhishek Sharma	829	829
3	Philip Salt	815	881
4	Tilak Varma	804	845
5	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
6	Jos Buttler	735	756
7	Babar Azam	716	900
8	Pathum Nissanka	714	722
9	Mohammad Rizwan	709	882
10	Kusal Perera	676	786

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Akeal Hosein	707	714
2	Varun Chakravarthy	706	706
3	Adil Rashid	705	747
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	700	809
5	Adam Zampa	694	746
6	Ravi Bishnoi	674	707
7	Maheesh Theekshana	666	686
8	Rashid Khan	664	828
9	Arshdeep Singh	653	679
10	Jofra Archer	649	668

BWSSB bags ₹103 cr. incentive for STPs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has bagged a ₹103 crore incentive for its high-quality Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) under the Jal Hi Amrit Scheme, second only to Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Of the 30 STPs evaluated under the project, 23 received a 5-star rating, 6 received a 4-star rating and one STP received a 3-star rating, BWSSB said in a statement.

"BWSSB treats approximately 1,450 MLD of wastewater daily through 34 STPs spread across Bengaluru. The city holds the distinction of being ranked first in Asia for the reuse of treated water, which is utilised for lake rejuvenation in the city and surrounding districts," BWSSB said.

"BWSSB has consistently adhered to international standards in sewage treatment. As the leading city in Asia for treated water reuse, we have spent the last eight months enhancing our STP operations. This incentive will be used to further modernise our STPs and improve water treatment infrastructure," said V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman, BWSSB.

Scientists from India, U.K. join hands to study healthy brain aging

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI) on Friday launched an international partnership that will create an interconnected research ecosystem to accelerate scientific understanding and innovation in brain health.

According to CBR, by integrating expertise and cutting-edge technologies including blood-based biomarkers, AI-driven data analysis, and digital cognitive monitoring tools, the partnership aims to develop innovative approaches to understanding and preventing cognitive decline.

Diverse population studies

"Together, CBR and UK DRI will harness the power of diverse population studies across India and the United Kingdom, combining unique research cohorts that span urban and rural communities. Working with Health Data Research UK, the partnership will leverage data, including extensive epidemiological datasets, to maximise research impact," it said.

"Through this unique endeavour, we aim to drive forward a research synergy that has the potential to address one of the most pressing health challenges of our time and provide solutions that benefit our aging society. It is an exciting intersection of advanced technology, shared expertise, and cross-cultural collaboration that could strengthen the broader conversation about brain aging," K.V.S. Hari, director, CBR, said.

The Centre for Brain Research added that expanding on the collaborative framework, the partnership will establish a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to knowledge exchange and research synergy. This includes robust mechanisms for cross-institutional collaboration, such as structured research internships enabling talented researchers to gain international exposure, joint educational initiatives that capitalise on expertise from both institutions, and strategic resource-sharing.

Fluid biomarkers

CBR said there will be focussed efforts on the characterisation of fluid biomarkers that will aid in early diagnosis and personalised treatment strategies for neurodegenerative conditions. In addition, the development of AI-powered data infrastructure will enable the integration of complex clinical and biological data, which will enhance research capabilities and facilitate informed decision-making.

"The partnership is poised to accelerate global understanding of brain health, with the goal to improve the lives of millions of individuals worldwide," it added.

Theatres pay homage to Puneeth Rajkumar

'Appu', the 2002 Kannada film directed by Puri Jagannadh, launched Puneeth as a hero in the Kannada film industry

'APPU' RE-RELEASE

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

Kannada film *Appu*, released on April 26, 2002, catapulted its debut hero Puneeth Rajkumar to stardom. The film was re-released on Friday, as part of the late actor's 50th birth anniversary celebrations.

A promise kept

PRK Productions, helmed by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, the actor's wife, has promised fans a re-release of one Puneeth film every year. Puneeth, known for blockbusters such as *Appu* (2002), *Abhi* (2003), *Jackie* (2010), and *Raajakumara* (2017), passed away at the age of 46 following a cardiac arrest in 2021.

On Friday, fans flocked to the theatre to watch their favourite star, who debuted in an action-packed love story directed by Telugu filmmaker Puri Jagannadh. Rakshita, who starred opposite Puneeth in *Appu*, also made her acting debut with the film. The movie was produced by Parvathamma Rajkumar, Puneeth's mother, under the banner Poornima Enterprises (also known as Vajreshwari Combines).

A dream launch

"It was a dream launch for a heroine," said Rakshita, daughter of cinematographer B.C. Gowrishankar and actor Mamatha Rao. "To work under the prestigious banner was a huge responsibility for me. I am forever grateful to the team for putting my career in the right direction."

A re-mastered 4K version of *Appu*, with audio clean-up, was released across Karnataka on 200 screens. More than 20,000 tickets were sold on the opening day of the re-release. Shows opened as early as 6:30 am, and thousands of fans flocked to single screens and multiplexes across the State.

Viewers celebrating at a screening of 'Appu', in Bengaluru on Friday. The movie was re-released as part of Puneeth Rajkumar's 50th birth anniversary celebrations. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"I remember watching *Appu* in Shivamogga when it was released. I became a huge fan of Puneeth after that," said Ashwin Kumar P.T., an HR professional. "Today was a holiday thanks to Holi, so I watched the film thrice today, twice at Veeresh theatre (Magadi Road) and once at Nartaki (K.G. Road)," he said.

'Prince' Manu, a film publicist, remembers meeting Puneeth near the Dr. Rajkumar Memorial at the Kanteerava Studio in 2009. "He (Puneeth) wished me on birthdays and even visited our family restaurant. I watched *Appu* twice today. My favourite films of Puneeth are *Paramathma* (2011) and *Veera Kannadiga* (2004)," he said.

Concert-like ambience

Movie halls witnessed a concert-like atmosphere as fans danced to evergreen numbers such as *Jolly Go Jolly Go* (lyrics from Hamsalekha) and *Talibaan Alla Alla* (written by Upendra). Music composer Gurukiran spoke about the experience of composing the hit album, which had bagged the audio rights for ₹40 lakh.

"I wanted the songs in the film to have a youthful energy," said Gurukiran. The composer was apprehensive of English lyrics in the songs. "I didn't know how Dr Rajkumar, sir, and Parvathamma ma'am would react. But Puneeth was the bridge between us, and he ensured our ideas got approved."

Puneeth, who had succeeded as a child actor, transitioned smoothly into a hero with *Appu*. Watching the re-release, fans re-lived their fond memories of watching the actor on the big screen as they cheered the actor's dance steps, punch dialogues, and stunt sequences.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJANI Govindaraj, W/o. Srivathsa K.R., D/o Late Kshamadevi Govindaraj, r/at Flat No.101, Sowgandhika Apt, 164, 1st Main Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore 560020 have changed my name as Rajani Srivasthsa vide affidavit dtd 11.03.2025 sworn before Notary P.G.Unnikrishnan, Blore

I, JAYASHREE V. Kalyani, W/o Visweswar.K.S, R/at No.673, Mathrubhoomi, 3rd Main Road, 3rd A Cross, Muneshwara Layout, Laggere, Bengaluru-560058, have changed my name from Jayashree V.Kalyani to Jayashree V.S.Mellalli vide affidavit dated 14-03-2025 sworn before Notary Udaykumar.K, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHARANG DEV GURUDUTT**, S/oJ.N. Gurudutt, aged about 36 years, R/at No. 10, Sannidhi Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004 do hereby declare that my original name is **SHARANG DEV GURUDUTT** and the same is reflected in SSLC Marks Card and in PUC, but in my Degree Certificate my name is shown as **SHARANG DEV J GURUDUTT**, but in my passport surname **GURUDUTT** is not mentioned, vide affidavit dated 12-03-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S.N. MADHU** at Bangalore.

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Website: www.aedol-spv.com

AMENDMENT OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR UP-GRADATION OF COMMON EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT AMBUR TEC - MALIGAITHOPE & THUTHIPET, AMBUR PUBLISHED ON 20-02-2025

The date of submission of all Tender Documents is extended upto 27-03-2025 at 11-00 AM instead of 18-03-2025.

Managing Director
AEDOL

‘Your childhood dream coming true doesn’t always happen, but it did for me’

INTERVIEW

Amelia Kerr

Vivek Krishnan

In this conversation, ace all-rounder Amelia Kerr reflects on New Zealand’s T20 World Cup triumph, casts an eye on her time in the Women’s Premier League, and talks about leg-spin, her record 232 not out, captaincy ambitions and why personal accolades don’t motivate her

GETTY IMAGES

Childhood dreams see the light of day only for a handful. For Amelia Kerr, they did in October 2024 as part of a New Zealand team that won the Women’s T20 World Cup for the first time. Moreover, the 24-year-old played chief protagonist, winning the Player of the Final and the Player of the Tournament awards.

Besides finishing as the tournament’s highest wicket-taker with 15 scalps in six matches with her leg-breaks and googlies, she also contributed 135 runs at No. 3. The icing on the cake for the ace all-rounder, who made her debut for the White Ferns as a 16-year-old, came in January when she was adjudged the ICC Women’s Cricketer of the Year.

In an interaction with *The Hindu* during the Lucknow leg of the Women’s Premier League, Kerr spoke about New Zealand’s triumph, her feats in the game and her experience in the WPL. Excerpts:

You have been a part of Mumbai Indians for all three seasons. How do you think the WPL has grown?

In the last three years, I have seen so much development. Firstly, within the squads I have been involved in, but in the standard of games also. Each year, there is also a local player or two who emerges and performs really well. The growth of the tournament and the cricket has been awesome to see.

What needs to happen for the league to grow further?

With five teams, the standard is actually really good. In the future, they may potentially add one more team. But yeah, the ball-striking has been so impressive. There is always work to be done for most teams on fielding. That is a real controllable. Often, teams that win competitions are the best fielding units. So, there is always room to grow, but I think it is in a really good place.

It's been a few months since New Zealand won the T20 World Cup. You won the Women’s Cricketer of the Year award on the back of it. How do you look back on those moments?

Obviously, the World Cup win was a real highlight for New Zealand. To win with some of my best mates, my sister [Jess Kerr] and some legends of New Zealand cricket, it is something I will remember for the rest of my life. With the team we have, we are such good friends and we have an amazing culture. Your childhood dream coming true doesn’t always happen, but it did.

> I hope that the World Cup inspired a lot of young kids to get involved, play cricket and see it as a career path. I think it would be awesome if cricket could be New Zealand’s No. 1 sport

Are personal accolades a big motivator?

No, it’s not a motivator at all for me. Performing for my teammates and trying to win games for the team I play for... that’s the motivation. It’s about winning, being in the moment and competing. The other stuff is very special and I am very grateful and humbled to receive those awards, but it is not something you think about even though it is a huge honour.

Having had time to reflect, what can this title do for your career? Do people recognise you a lot more in New Zealand now?

Yeah, definitely. I hope it just helps New Zealanders and our team believe that we can compete with the best in the world and be the best in the world. A massive thing about having success is that it builds belief in the team. I think that’s number one. People like successful stories. So, I also hope that the World Cup inspired a lot of young kids to get involved, play cricket and see it as a career path. I think it would be awesome if cricket could be New Zealand’s No. 1 sport.

You are one of the world's premier all-rounders. Is dealing with the pressure of expectations a challenge?

I don’t think it’s a challenge. Nothing really changes for me. All these things are external. For me, it’s about knowing my gameplan, who I am as a person and trusting that. The outcome will be what it will be. But if I can be consistent in the way that I work hard and prepare for games, that’s controlling the controllables.

Wrist-spinners seem to be doing very well in the shorter formats. What makes them so effective?

Being able to pick leg-spinners’ variations can be difficult. It is an attacking style of bowling. You can get hit and things may sometimes not go your way. But because it is an attacking brand, there is reward that comes with that. Not many people bowl leg-spin. So, you don’t get to practise against it as often. I love bowling leg-spin. It is a hard craft, but it is a lot of fun too when you get it right.

How do you strike a balance between hunting for wickets and not leaking too many runs?

Consistency is number one. Because leg-spin is hard, you can be inconsistent. You are trying to spin the ball both ways with variations. So, you just have to practise a lot. As a leg-spinner, your best ball is often very good. If you can be as consistent as you can be, that is when you will see reward.

> Captaincy is something that does interest me, but it’s also something that I don’t want to rush into. I want to make sure that I am ready when I do it

There’s the ODI World Cup in India later this year. What has the WPL experience taught you about playing in India?

It’s a massive advantage getting to play in India. To experience the culture, conditions and all those different things, you are able to work out what is effective on these pitches. The 50-over format is different, but getting used to conditions here is really important.

Your 232 not out in 2018 still stands as the highest score in women’s ODIs. What are your memories of that knock?

I got to open that day and I hadn’t really batted much for NZ then. It was special to get that opportunity. Now that I think back, it is probably more how far women’s cricket has come since that day. We were playing on a club ground and we were not on television. Now, we are always playing on television and in stadiums. I didn’t really think too much in that innings and it feels like a long time ago. It’s something that cannot be taken away, but moreover, it’s just awesome to see the growth of the women’s game.

You are vastly experienced at a very young age. Is captaincy something you are eventually keen on?

Yeah, leadership is something I enjoy. My thing is that I don’t need to be named anything to be a leader within a group. There is obviously a bit of change happening in New Zealand at the moment. Captaincy is something that does interest me, but it’s also something that I don’t want to rush into. I want to make sure that I am ready when I do it. Over the years, you learn a lot, especially having played with some incredible players who have been great leaders and helped me along my career. Hopefully one day, when younger players come through, I can have that same impact on them that older players have had on me.

GAME THEORY

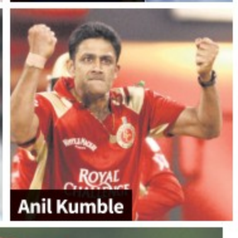
The IPL over-lords

With another season of the Indian Premier League set to begin next weekend, we list the quickest scoring batters and most economical bowlers in the tournament’s history. Batters are ranked on the runs scored per six balls and bowlers on the runs conceded per six balls.

Sunil Narine

Andre Russell

Nicholas Pooran


Anil Kumble

Daniel Vettori

MOST RUNS PER OVER (BATTERS, MIN: 1,000 RUNS)

Player	Teams	Runs	Runs per over
Andre Russell	DC/KKR	2,484	10.50
Sunil Narine	KKR	1,534	9.95
Nicholas Pooran	KXIP/LSG/ PBKS/SRH	1,769	9.74
Glenn Maxwell	DC/KXIP/MI/RCB	2,771	9.40
Virender Sehwag	DC/KXIP	2,728	9.33
Abhishek Sharma	DC/SRH	1,377	9.31
Shimron Hetmyer	DC/RCB/RR	1,243	9.18
AB de Villiers	DC/RCB	5,162	9.10
Yashasvi Jaiswal	RR	1,607	9.04
Chris Gayle	KKR/KXIP/ PBKS/RCB	4,965	8.94
Rishabh Pant	DC	3,284	8.94
Jos Buttler	MI/RR	3,582	8.85
Prithvi Shaw	DC	1,892	8.85
Kieron Pollard	MI	3,412	8.84
Shivam Dube	CSK/RCB/RR	1,502	8.80

FEWEST RUNS PER OVER (BOWLERS, MIN: 100 OVERS)

Player	Teams	Overs	Runs per over
Anil Kumble	RCB	160.5	6.57
Sunil Narine	KKR	679.1	6.73
Daniel Vettori	DC/RCB	129.3	6.78
Rashid Khan	GT/SRH	476.3	6.82
Dale Steyn	DCH/GL/RCB/SRH	362.4	6.91
Johan Botha	DC/KKR/RR	115.4	6.91
Rahul Sharma	DC/DCH/PWI	154.4	7.02
Moeen Ali	CSK/RCB	126.2	7.06
Harbhajan Singh	CSK/KKR/MI	569.2	7.07
R. Ashwin	CSK/DC/KXIP/ RPS/RR	754	7.12
Lasith Malinga	MI	471.1	7.14
Iqbal Abdulla	KKR/RCB/RR	153.2	7.23
Murali Kartik	KKR/KXIP/PWI/RCB	191.4	7.24
Shane Warne	RR	199	7.27
Axar Patel	DC/KXIP	516.3	7.27

SOURCE: espncricinfo.com

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

In race trim

In this photograph — captured earlier this month in Altona North, Australia — racehorses Tom Kitten and Zardozi are put through a beach session by their trainers.

Racehorses, much like elite athletes, participate in structured training programmes tailored to their strengths, weaknesses and tendencies, and designed to build them up to a race.

According to Horse Racing Sense, “training sessions include walking, trotting, galloping, and working (running)”. This can involve slow work on the sand track, rides around the local paddock, walks on an automatic walking machine and swimming sessions in the pool or, where possible, a more natural water setting.

Much of the training is done early in the morning to prevent heat exhaustion, especially in places where the temperatures can soar as the day wears on.

Racehorses also need to be around other horses and different environments as a part of their preparation for competition — unless properly acclimatised, they can get nervous, sweat profusely (a phenomenon known as ‘washing out’) and underperform in a race.

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A BG-BGE

City records hottest day of the year so far

Temperature was 35.4°C in Bengaluru, 35.6°C at HAL Airport, 35.5°C at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city on Friday recorded the hottest day of the year so far. The maximum temperature breached the 35°C mark for the first time this summer. It was 35.4°C in Bengaluru city, 35.6°C at HAL Airport, and 35.5°C at Kempegowda International Airport.

"So far, the maximum temperature recorded was about 34°C, but now it has crossed 35°C, and Friday is the hottest day of the year. The temperature will be above the 35°C for the next three to four days," C.S. Patil, scientist and director, IMD Bengaluru said.

He attributed this to dry air and the absence of clouds. Mr. Patil said the forecast for the next few days indicates that there would be no cloud formation and the hot and humid conditions would continue to prevail.

IMD says there will be no cloud formation over Bengaluru in the next few days, and the hot and humid conditions are likely to continue. FILE PHOTO

The highest-ever temperature for March in Bengaluru was 37.3°C in 1996. Last year, the city recorded a maximum of 36.4°C, which was the highest in the last five years.

Many districts of Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka were among 56 locations in the region that recorded a maximum temperature of over 40°C in the last 24 hours.

According to the bulletin issued by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), Kallur Hobli in Raichur district recorded the highest maximum temperature of 42.4°C in the State.

Further rise

As per IMD's temperature forecast, maximum temperature over North and South Interior Karnataka is expected to rise by 2 to 3 °C in the next three days.

Railway police crack murder case made to look as train accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Railway police recently cracked a case of murder of a 24-year-old that was made to look as an accident. The body of the deceased, identified as Loganathan, was found on the railway tracks between the Chikkabanavara and Nelamangala railway stations on February 19.

The police arrested three persons, including the victim's former live-in partner Satyavani, 27, her newly married husband, Varadaraj, 23, both residents of Krishnagiri district, and Srinivas C., 25, a resident of Alur. The police found injuries on the victim's neck, head, and other body parts raising suspicion that death couldn't have been caused by a train accident.

According to the police, Satyavani was in a live-in relationship with Loganathan, however, she allegedly had an affair with Varadaraj, married him and eloped, the police said.

'Real estate accounts for 65% of SBI's portfolio'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chief General Manager says the city has an excellent builder community and is seeing good real estate activity

Real estate forms 65% of State Bank of India's portfolio, and Bengaluru has seen good realty activity, said Joohi Smita Sinha, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Bengaluru Circle.

"Real estate forms 65% of our portfolio at SBI. Bengaluru has an excellent builder community, and most projects are fully booked at the time of launch itself," said Ms. Sinha at the CREDAI-organised three-day Bengaluru Realty Expo 2025 that commenced here on Friday.

Amar Mysore, President, CREDAI Bengaluru, said the city consumed around 65,000 units of homes annually, and this would go up to one lakh soon. Areas like Sarjapur Road, Whitefield, Hebbal, and Devanahalli were witnessing significant growth due to their proximity to IT hubs, improved infrastructure, and connectivity, he further said.

"The emerging areas are projected to see property value increases ranging from 8% to 12% annually and are becoming hotspots for residential and commercial developments," Mr. Mysore said.

Around 28 developers and six bankers are participating in CREDAI Expo 2025.

A culinary tour of iconic eateries in Majestic

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Whether you're a long-time resident or a first-time visitor to the city, exploring some iconic food spots in Majestic will leave you with a full stomach and a happy heart. From traditional Gowdru style Karnataka cuisine, North Karnataka's popular khanavalis, coastal treats to Maratha flavours, the Majestic, known for its bustling bus and railway terminals, is also a popular hub for food lovers. What sets these eateries apart is not just their food but the cultural and historic tapestry they weave.

One of the most popular eateries in the area is 44-year-old restaurant - Hotel Navayuga, in Subedar Chatram Road, Gandhinagar, which is also called as "Annavra biryani hotel", as it rose to fame after late legendary Kannada film star Rajkumar became a frequent visitor, and so was his son Puneeth Rajkumar.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Srinivas Rao, who owns the restaurant, said that the film connection started when his father and the founder of Navayuga, Mohan Rao, produced a film. "Initially, when we opened in 1981, Rajkumar and his family were frequent visitors, so was Puneeth Rajkumar before he got into films, but as people started gathering just to have a glimpse of them, they were forced to have take away and stopped visiting the restaurant."

A view from Madappa Mess at Gandhinagar in Bengaluru on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A quintessential stop for those seeking authentic meals, spicy biryani, and chicken and mutton starters, Hotel Navayuga is renowned for its hearty portions and spicy curries served with unlimited rice that attract office-goers and travellers alike. However, Srinivas says that like most businesses in the Majestic area, their business is not as thriving as before.

"We are packed during lunch time, however, the rush and crowd is not the same as it was during the first three decades. Especially after the bus stop came up, we saw a shift in the crowd. Bengaluru has spread a lot geographically, and there are lots of restaurants now; people prefer eating what is available to them easily and faster. Since the city is spreading a lot by each day, we plan to open another branch somewhere around the city soon," he added.

Another popular eatery in the area is S.G. Rao's Military Hotel at Sultanpete, which is an example of the rich history the city holds. Established in 1908, serving flavours of the Marathas, S.G. Rao's Military Hotel specialises in hearty non-vegetarian dishes. Their signature mutton pulav, chicken pulav, and Kheema balls have been crowd favorites for more than a century.

Another gem for meat lovers is the New Govindrao Military Hotel at Chickpete. Founded in 1911, the restaurant is famous for its flavorful biryanis, chicken and mutton starters, leg soup, Ragi Mudde (millet balls), Idly, and spicy gravies. Amid the tiny lanes of Chickpete, the rustic ambiance adds to the charm of this long-standing establishment. Hotel Annapoorna and Hotel Fishland in Gandhi Nagar are also known for their biryanis, appetisers and South Indian meals.

Majestic NO MORE

Meanwhile, for veg lovers and a taste of Karnataka's rustic cuisine, Mudde Madappa Mess, a pure-veg restaurant in Gandhi Nagar, is a must-visit. Known for its Ragi Mudde served with flavorful Uppu Saaru (spiced lentil soup), this no-frills eatery provides an authentic experience. The eatery is also famous for its Thatte Idly, Rice Bath, and Girmit Mirchi.

Having the old age Bengaluru charm, Janardhana Hotel at Kumara Krupa Road, a favorite breakfast joint among locals, is known for its affordable food and ambience. Popular for its Saagu Masale Dosa, the restaurant also serves a variety of South Indian dishes like Chow Chow Bath, Bisi Bele Bath, Masala Dosae and full meals topped off with flavorful filter coffee.

To cleanse off the wonderful dishes the area has to offer, Janatha Juice House in Gandhinagar serves the purpose. Serving nothing but traditional Sugar Cane juice, this tiny juice centre was opened 40 years ago, with selling at ₹2 per glass, which is now served at ₹25 per glass.

As the Karnataka Budget for 2025-26 announced plans for the redevelopment of the Kempegowda Bus Station at Majestic, The Hindu, in a six-part series, explores the various facets of the pete area. This is the last story in the series.

7 drug peddlers held, ₹60.5 lakh worth of narcotics recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have seized drugs worth over ₹60.5 lakh and arrested seven persons in four different cases for allegedly peddling drugs.

Acting on a tip-off, the Konanakunte police raided a gang sitting in a car in Doddakallasandra allegedly trying to peddle drugs and arrested two persons - Somashekhar, 34, and Sundar, 28, and seized ₹46.1 lakh worth 3.4 kg of hash-ish oil, 1.1 kg of ganja, and a car. The duo bought their supply from a person in Odisha, the police said.

Sleuths from the Central Crime Branch (CCB) raided a parking lot of a playground in Chennammanakere Achukattu, arrested an individual, and recovered ₹10.5 lakh worth of narcotics, including 55.2 grams of MDMA crystals and 1.9 kg of ganja from him. The Devanahalli police arrested two persons identified as Mohammed Javed, 22, and Ismail, 20, both from Devanahalli, and seized ₹1.9 lakh worth of items, including 3.5 kg of ganja, a two-wheeler, and two mobile phones. The Whitefield police arrested two persons identified as Dilbur Hussain, 26, and Chowdhury, 25, and recovered 12.9 kg of ganja worth ₹2 lakh from them.

Recently, sleuths from the CCB raided a godown in Kalasipalya, arrested one person and recovered ₹45 lakh worth of tobacco products which had no health warning.

BUSINESS CONNECT
A Business Initiative

"Nationwide Mass Resignation of Kidneys": A Wake-Up Call for Kidney Health - Initiative by Manipal Hospital

"Kidneys across the country are resigning!" - a symbolic yet thought-provoking message that highlights the growing crisis of kidney diseases and the urgent need for preventive care. This unique initiative by Manipal Hospitals for this year's World Kidney Day, 2025 sparks conversations about kidney health and encourages proactive measures to protect these vital organs before it's too late. Reflecting on this initiative, Dr. H Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman, Manipal Hospitals, noted, "Our kidneys are resilient. - they work tirelessly, yet we neglect them. With this initiative, we wish to bring an awareness to the community to take small steps for these unsung heroes of the body - our kidneys. Positive feedback from Ms. Tina Chowdhury Negi, an Entrepreneur, stated, "A wake-up call it is -- the mass resignation of kidneys! Our kidneys have been our loyal warriors - it's time we support and stand by them too before the system collapses. Mr. Indranil Roy Choudhury, IT professional, quoted, "I recently came across Manipal Hospitals' creative campaign featuring a personified kidney resigning from its job due to overload. As someone from the corporate world, I instantly connected with the message. The campaign's intelligent approach resonated deeply with me. By putting themselves in our shoes, Manipal Hospitals ensured the message was relatable and impactful. The unique storytelling approach made me pause and reflect, rather than simply scrolling past. Through this campaign, we urge everyone to take a proactive step by scheduling a kidney health check-up, spreading awareness within their communities, and making informed lifestyle choices to safeguard their well-being. Let's make kidney health a topic of everyday conversation and inspire positive change towards overall health.

Bank of Baroda introduces the bob Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account for Women NRIs

In a first amongst public sector banks, Bank of Baroda announced the launch of the bob Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account, designed exclusively for women NRIs to meet their global aspirations and unique banking needs. In addition, the Bank has revamped one of its flagship NRI offerings, the bob Premium NRE & NRO Savings Account, enhancing its features and benefits to provide a more rewarding banking experience to customers. The bob Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account comes with a range of unique benefits such as auto sweep facility enabling customers to earn higher interest, concessional interest rates on home loans and auto loans along with reduced processing charges; 100% concession on locker rent; a customised debit card with free domestic and international lounge access at airports; and free Personal and Air Accident Insurance coverage, becoming the first public sector bank to extend insurance coverage benefits to NRIs in savings accounts. Ms. Beena Vaheed, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda said, "As India's International Bank, Bank of Baroda has a robust global presence and understands the evolving aspirations of its NRI customers. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Bank of Baroda stands ready as a trusted banking partner as women chart their global journey.

Celebrate Women's Health with United Hospital!

In celebration of Women's Day, United Hospital, Jayanagar is proud to launch an exclusive Women's Day Health Package, emphasizing preventive healthcare and early detection of critical health conditions. The package includes essential diagnostic tests such as Fasting Blood Sugar, CBC with ESR, and Urine Routine, which help assess overall health and detect potential issues early. Women can also benefit from 2D Echo and USG Abdomen & Pelvis screenings, crucial for cardiac and abdominal health. For women above 40, the package offers CT Coronary Calcium Scoring (recommended once in three years) to assess heart disease risk and Pap smear for early cervical cancer detection. A gynecologist consultation is also included to provide expert medical guidance based on test results. This special health initiative is available from March 8th to April 8th, 2025. United Hospital encourages women to take advantage of this opportunity to prioritize their health and well-being. For more details and bookings visit www.unitedhospitals.com.

UCO Bank campaign on the occasion of International Women's Day 2025

In the ongoing MSME, Agri & Resources Carnival Campaign by UCO Bank, Shri Amit Srivastava, General Manager & Vertical Head, Resources, UCO Bank, Head Office Kolkata addressed the Woman Entrepreneurs and distributed sanction letters and Smt.Jyothi K IAS launched Aparajita Rupay Platinum Debit card in the event organized in association with Peenya Industrial Area in PIA Nari Shakti Sammilana on 11.03.2025 sponsored by UCO Bank on the occasion of International Women's Day 2025 . Dr. Meenakshi Negi IAS, Smt.Jyothi K IAS,Smt.Zehera Naseem ,IAS (MD, KSIC), Dr. Mamtha B R,Rtd IAS, Smt Roopa M V were present as Chief Guests in the event.

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Court rejects Ranya Rao's bail plea

Gaurav Gupta Committee, probing misuse of police protocol services and role of K. Ramachandra Rao, begins investigation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Court for Economic Offences on Friday dismissed the bail petition of Ranya Rao, who was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) after she was caught smuggling 14.2 kg of gold at Kempegowda International Airport on March 3. DRI had objected to her bail plea arguing that the case possibly involved an international smuggling syndicate, which was yet to be completely unravelled, and Ranya Rao was not cooperating with the probe.

DRI had argued that releasing her on bail may cause a setback to the probe as other accused,

Ranya Rao

yet to be identified, may close their trails and lead to destruction of evidence.

Tarun Raju remanded

At the same court, Tarun Raju, another accused arrested in the case by DRI on March 12, was produced and was remanded in 14 days judicial custody. His three-day police custody ended on Friday.

Tarun Raju, also an actor in the Telugu film industry and the grandson of a prominent hotelier in the city, was a close associate of Ranya Rao and was allegedly involved in the smuggling of gold and laundering it, sources said.

Panel begins probe

Meanwhile, the inquiry committee led by Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta, probing misuse of police protocol services and the role of Ranya's stepfather Director General of Police K. Ramachandra Rao in the case, began its investigation on Friday.

The committee is learnt to has served a notice to Mr. Rao to appear before them to record his statement. Meanwhile, Mr. Rao has reportedly gone on leave. He is presently posted as Managing Director, Karnataka State Police Housing and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.

Spot inspection at KIA

Mr. Gupta and Vamsi Krishna, Deputy Inspector General, Criminal Investigation Department, visited KIA for a spot inspection on Friday. The team studied the system of customs checks at the airport and what privileges, if any, Ranya Rao got because she was being escorted by police personnel of the International Airport police station during most of her checkouts.

Statements recorded

The committee recorded the statements of two personnel - head constable Basavaraj of the International Airport Police Station and Dhanush Kumar, a constable with the State Intelligence - who had been with Ranya Rao when she was intercepted by the DRI. '=

In his statement to DRI, Basavaraj had said that like many other IPS officers did, Mr. Rao had asked him to provide escort services to his family members during arrival and departure at KIA and as per this, he had earlier too provided the service to Ranya Rao and on March 3, she called and sought his services, following which he went and helped her during check out.

He said he was not aware that she was carrying contraband material on her. Dhanush Kumar was not assigned to the job but had accompanied Basavaraj, a friend.

SBI donates dialysis machine to hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In observance of World Kidney Day, the State Bank of India (SBI) donated a Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy dialysis machine valued at ₹24.67 lakh to St. John's Medical College Hospital in Bengaluru on Thursday. The donation was officially handed over by Joohi Smita Sinha, Chief General Manager of SBI.

CREDAI BENGALURU
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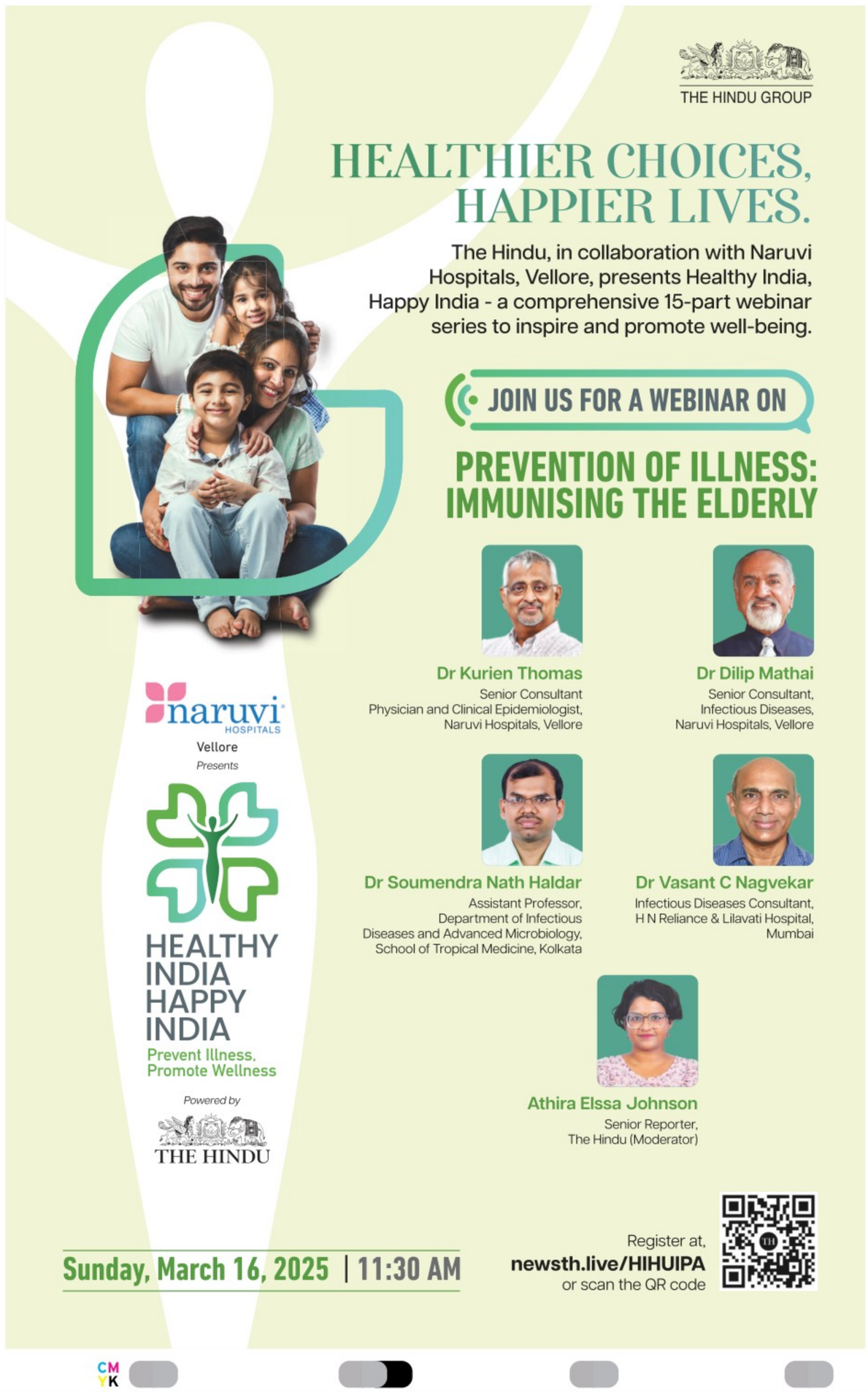

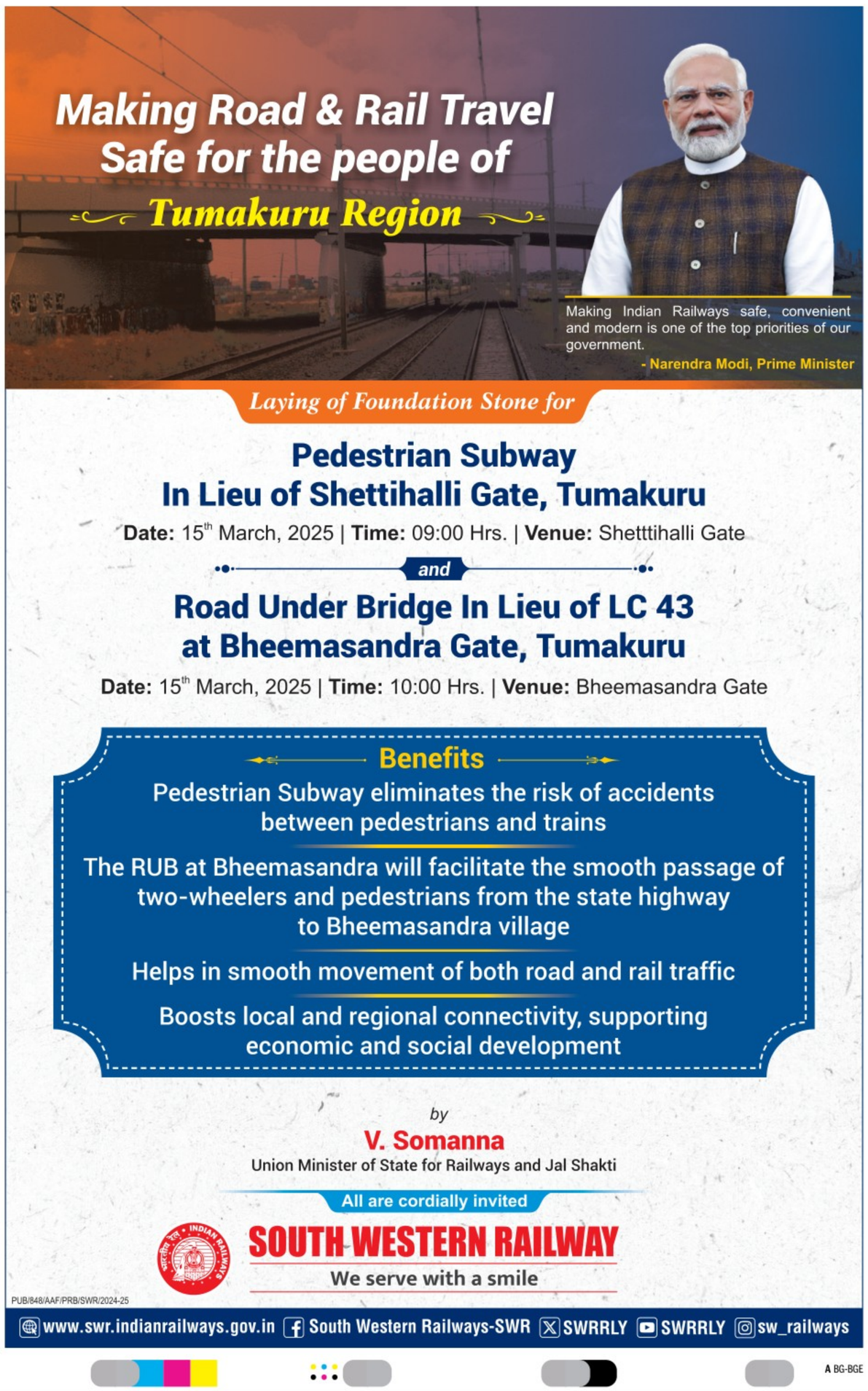
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Making Indian Railways safe, convenient and modern is one of the top priorities of our government.
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister
Laying of Foundation Stone for
Pedestrian Subway
In Lieu of Shettihalli Gate, Tumakuru
Date: 15th March, 2025 | Time: 09:00 Hrs. | Venue: Shetttihalli Gate
and
Road Under Bridge In Lieu of LC 43
at Bheemasandra Gate, Tumakuru
Date: 15th March, 2025 | Time: 10:00 Hrs. | Venue: Bheemasandra Gate
Benefits
Pedestrian Subway eliminates the risk of accidents between pedestrians and trains
The RUB at Bheemasandra will facilitate the smooth passage of two-wheelers and pedestrians from the state highway to Bheemasandra village
Helps in smooth movement of both road and rail traffic
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by
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti
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Another person dies in jumbo attack in Belur

A team of senior officers will be sent to study the issue and recommend a permanent solution, says Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A woman died after she was attacked by a wild elephant at Bommenahalli in Arehalli hobli of Belur taluk in Hassan district on Friday.

Susheelamma, 47, encountered the wild elephant while she was working in an estate.

Fourth death

The animal trampled her to death. This is the fourth death in elephant attacks in Hassan district this year. Following the incident, police and officers of the Forest Department rushed to the spot.

The repeated incidents of elephant attack in Hassan district have left people in parts of Alur, Sakleshpur, and Belur taluks worried, including plantation workers. Local residents have staged protests whenever deaths occurred and have been demanding the capture of all elephants roaming in the district.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre visited Hassan on March 3 and held a meeting with officers and local people on the human-elephant conflict.

He assured the local people that all jumbos wandering in Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, and Kodagu districts would be relocated to an elephant camp, proposed to come up in the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary.

Residents of villages in Belur taluk staging a protest following the death of a woman in an elephant attack, on Friday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Protest

Following the death of the woman, residents of villages in Belur taluk staged a protest, demanding that Mr. Khandre visit the spot. They refused to lift the body until the Minister reached the spot. They burnt tyres and stopped the movement of vehicles on Cheekanahalli-Belur Road.

Meanwhile, Mr. Khandre, responding to the death, stated that it was a painful development and the government would stand by the family of the victim. He would pray to the Almighty to bestow her family members with the strength necessary to bear the loss.

The Minister said that the government was committed to mitigating human-elephant conflict and had taken measures in this direction.

Official team

A team of officers, led by a senior official of the APCCF rank, would be sent to the places to study the issue and submit a report for a permanent solution to the crisis. He appealed to the people to be cautious and take extra care until the rainy season.

The government had also announced to set up an elephant camp (soft release centre) in Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary in the Budget, he added.

Legislators 'blackmailing' govt. over dumping yards in their constituencies: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, on Friday, speaking about issues concerning solid waste management, said some legislators were "blackmailing" the government over dumping yards and that waste management had indeed become something of a "mafia" in the city.

"When tender was floated in the past, vendors collectively moved court, stopping all work. The court has also not pronounced its verdict. Some legislators are blackmailing us about the dumping yard. I do not want to take their names. They are demanding ₹800 crore for their constituencies," he said.

The Dy.CM also pointed out that garbage trucks have been parked in the Mahadevapura constituency for several days and have become a big issue. "We are planning to visit Indore to study their model. Though we have not yet even floated tenders, the Opposition is already alleging that I have made ₹15,000 crores."

Garbage collection in parts of the city was affected following a protest by the residents of Kannur village panchayat, where the Mittaganagalli landfill is situated. They were protesting against the waste dumping, which has led to stench and hygiene issues.

Rudrappa Lamani injured

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani suffered injuries in a road accident near Hiriyur of Chitradurga district on Friday evening. He has been rushed to a private hospital in Davangere for further treatment.

The accident occurred at Javanagondanahalli in Hiriyur taluk when Mr. Lamani was on his way to his native village in Haveri district. Mr. Lamani was hit by a two-wheeler on the national highway when he alighted from his car.

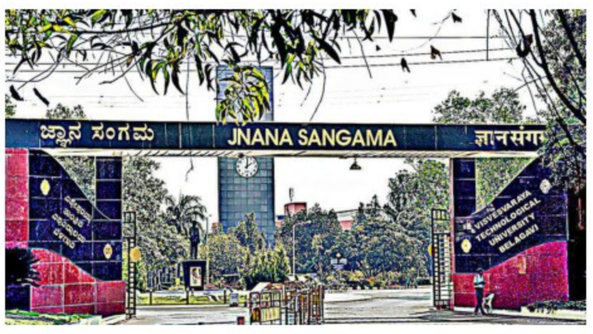
VTU offers minor degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has introduced a minor degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, to provide additional opportunities for skill enhancement and entrepreneurial development, for engineering students in Karnataka.

Minor degrees are online and five semester courses. Students enrolled in regular undergraduate degree programmes and who are entering into the 4th semester of their graduation course with Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 5.0 (whether or not they have a backlog) are eligible to apply directly to the VTU for this course.

Earlier, VTU had offered Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics and other minor degree courses for the year 2024-25. The one in Innovation and Entrepreneurship is the latest addition. Students can take minor degree courses with any of the major engineering degree courses.



A file photo of Visvesvaraya Technological University in Belagavi

According to VTU, with a rapidly evolving job market where Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies are reshaping industries, innovation and management are essential skills for both pursuing placement and becoming an entrepreneur. Success is no longer just about having a great idea, it requires adaptability, creative problem-solving, financial literacy, and strategic decision-making. Businesses, whether start-ups or established organisations, today need to continuously innovate to stay competitive. The ability to develop new products, optimise business models, and navigate market uncertainties is crucial for anyone aspiring to lead in this dynamic landscape.

The minor degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship equips students with the creative thinking. problem-solving, and entrepreneurial skills needed to turn ideas into successful ventures. With mentorship, industry collaborations, and start-up incubators, students can transform their classroom concepts into real-world start-ups, leveraging their innovation expertise to create impactful businesses across industry verticals.

Concurrent programme

The minor degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship is open to all students who are enrolled in colleges under the VTU, both affiliated and autonomous. However, minor degrees must be completed simultaneously with a major degree programme. Students cannot earn a minor after they have already earned their bachelor's degree.

All requirements for the minor degree must be completed within a maximum of four semesters during the major degree of study but no later than the maximum duration of study of the major degree permitted by the regulatory body.

In the event a student drops out from the minor degree or is not able to fulfil requirements for the certification of a minor, within the maximum period of study permitted by the regulatory body, the student will not be issued the minor degree. Nevertheless, the transcripts for the completed courses will be issued.

About 5,000 enrolled

S. Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor of VTU, told *The Hindu*, "We launched various minor degree courses from the academic year 2024-25. In the first year, about 5,000 students registered. Minor courses have been started in all branches of engineering. If students complete minor degree courses simultaneously with regular engineering courses, both degrees will be awarded. For example, if a students completed BE in mechanical engineering and a minor degree in AI, a certificate will be given as BE in Mechanical Engineering and minor degree in AI. Minor degrees will help the students to enhance their knowledge, and it will provide more job opportunities."

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, vide its letter No. **SEIAA 06 CON 2025** dated: 07-03-2025 has accorded Environmental Clearance to **M/s. APG Townships Private Limited** for construction of "Residential Apartment & Club House"Project at Sy. No. 119/1 & 119/2, Sathnur Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Copy of the Clearance letter is available with the SEIAA office and may also be seen on the website of the MOEF & CC at https://parivesh.nic.in

This Public Notice is issued in compliance with the conditions laid down in the above Environmental Clearance. **Sd/-**

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAR. 15
RISE 06:27 SET 18:30
RISE 19:24 SET 06:57

SUNDAY, MAR. 16
RISE 06:26 SET 18:30
RISE 20:09 SET 07:31

MONDAY, MAR. 17
RISE 06:26 SET 18:30
RISE 20:55 SET 08:05

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	21
Mysuru	34	19
Bengaluru	35	21

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night will be leasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm. Night will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that my client **Sri.Keshavachar K.V. S/o. Venkatappa, (9845681844)** has purchased the property from its owner (Vendor) **Smt. H.S.Anusha,** with respect to **Site No.54/A, formed in Sy No.78/1, measuring East to West 40 Sq. Feet, North to South 20 Sq. Feet, Totally 800 Square Feet, Situated at Bengaluru North Taluk, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Shreegandada Dakale, Sunkadakatte Village. for valuable Consideration On 01-02-2020. On 14-03-2025 at 9:00 AM** my client **has lost Page No.7 of original registered Sale Deed Dated 01-02-2020 vide registered as Document No.SRI-1-06189-2019-20,stored in CD.No.SRID503 Book No.1,** at Balaji Traders. Xerox center, Bharathi Nagar, 23rd Cross, BSK 3rd Stage, Ittamadu Main Road, Bengaluru-560085. As per instructions of my client to that effect, i also lodged a complaint before the police station Channammana Kere Acchukattu, Bangaluru, **vide lost report No.1520140/2025, dt 14-03-2025**. If any person/s has found the above mentioned **Page No.7 of original sale deed dt 01-02-2020,** it may be handed over to the undersigned for which they will be rewarded.

B.R.Vijaya Prakash, BA LLB. Advocate
18, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, 4th Main, SSA Road, Opp. to Professional Courier, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024, M:9900721343
Email: vijayreddyadv143@gmail.com
Bengaluru Date: 14-03-2025

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES)
Podium Block,3rd Floor, V.V Tower, Bengaluru-560001
e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com, Phone No.080-29565353/29604556

No. SPLOCA/ADM/30/2024-25 **Date: 13.03.2025**

NOTIFICATION

Resume are invited from interested agencies/interested individuals to fill up the following various posts which have been sanctioned and not filled up to the Office of the Special Officer and the Competent Authority (IMA and Other KPIDFE Scam). The applications shall be submitted to the above office. **Last date of submission of Resume: 19.03.2025.**

ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ:

Sl. No	Post/ Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	**Legal Officer & Legal Advisor [To work in the offices of the CAs in Regional commissioner's office, Bangalore]**	LLB. LLM Registered at Bar council of Karnataka for at least 7 years.	LLM	Minimum 5 years experience in High court	10 years experience in High court & other courts	1	65,000/- to 75,000/- (Actual shall depend upon qualification & Experience)

Sl. No	Post/ Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	**Private Secretary (Junior)**	1.Graduation 2. Knowledge of Computers or Stenography. 3.Office Automation Diploma	LLB will be preferred.	2 Years as Steno & PA in Govt/ Govt. Agencies/ PSU	3 Years as Steno & PA in Govt/ Govt Agencies	1	35,000/-

Sl. No	Post/ Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	**IT personnel-2 Forensic Data Scientist**	BE CSE/IS with certificate in Cyber Forensics and Cyber Law (CCCFL)	BE CSE/IS with PG Diploma in CCCFL	Minimum 1 Year as Data Scientist or Cyber Forensic Expert.	1 year in CA firm or forensic audit firm.	1	50,000/- Depending on qualification and experience.

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Graduation Day 2024 at BMS Institute of Technology and Management, Yelahanka Bengaluru (BMSIT)

BMS Institute of Technology and Management, yelahanka Bengaluru on 8th march celebrated it's second Graduation Day after getting the Autonomous status from VTU. Around 110 MCA, MBA and MTech students received the degree certificates. 6 ranks were announced for the top achievers in each course. Ms. Ramya Parashar, COO & Executive Board Member, MIQ, inaugurated the event. BMSIT Chairman, Sri Aviram Sharma, Principal Dr. Sanjay HA, Vice Principal Dr. Anil GN, Controller of Examinations Dr. Hanumantharaju MC, Dean Academic Dr. Satish, Dean Planning & development Dr. P Ganesh and others were present during the event. CM of BMSIT, Mr. Aviram Sharma congratulated all the graduates for coming out with flying colors. Principal BMSIT Dr. Sanjay HA presented a brief report about the college. VP Dr. Anil GN, Dean Planning & development Dr. P Ganesh, Dean Student Welfare Dr. Ambika R, Dean Career Guidance Dr. Manjunath TN, Controller of Examinations DR. Hanumantharaju and others were present during the event.

BMS College for Women – winners at Sportstakes tournament 2025

BMS College for Women emerged as WINNERS in Handball,Volleyball,Kho-Kho,Throwball and Runners in Kabaddi in St.Josephs University -Sportstakes tournament -2025. Volleyball team were Winners in Presidency University , Christ University and Runners in MCC and JNC College tournaments. Kho-Kho team were Winners in Christ University, Koramangala

Educhoice Awards - Women Leaders in Academia 2025 International Women's Day

Educhoice Awards - Women Leaders in Academia 2025 was held on the eve of International Women's Day at Vivanta, Residency Road, Bengaluru. The event celebrated the remarkable achievements of women in academia, inspiring a new generation of leaders. Chief Guest R. Selvi, Scientist G and GM, shared her journey from a remote village to becoming a leading scientist, emphasizing the pivotal role her school teachers played in her success. Guest of Honor Suman Valke, Scientist G (Retd), ISRO, encouraged women academicians to collaborate with ISRO to establish space experimentation labs in their institutions. Suma Sampath, an avid marathon runner, highlighted the importance of fitness and winning habits in enhancing overall success. The day also featured two insightful panel discussions. The first, Supporting Women Entrepreneurship and the second, Well-being of Women in High-Stress Careers. The event concluded with the felicitation of outstanding women leaders in academia, reaffirming the commitment to empowering women in education and beyond..

REVA University Wins Big at the AIU Inter University National Youth Festival "Amity Utsav" 2024-2025

REVA University has achieved a remarkable feat at the 38th AIU Inter University National Youth Festival-2024-25, winning five prestigious national awards at the competition held at Amity University, Noida, New Delhi. The university's talented students showcased their excellence in various cultural disciplines, securing top honours in multiple categories. The festival witnessed the participation of over 2500 students from 148 universities across India, competing in various competitions that celebrated India's rich cultural heritage. Speaking about the achievement, Dr. P. Shyama Raju, Chancellor of REVA University said: "We take immense pride in our students' achievements and I wholeheartedly congratulate them on their dedication and hard work." The university remains committed to encouraging students to push boundaries, embrace creativity, and continue making a mark on national and international platforms.

Inauguration of the technical fest "ADVAYA" Organized by Dept. of MCA, RV Institute of Technology and Management, Bengaluru

RV Institute of Technology and Management, Department of MCA organizing ADVAYA Tech Fest, on 11th and 12th March, 2025 bringing together students and technology enthusiasts for an engaging two-day event. The inaugural ceremony was graced by the chief guests, Mr. B. P. Srinivas, Manager (GPU - DV) at Intel, and Mr. Aravinda Kumar Kolly, Principal QA SW Engineer at Extreme Networks, along with the esteemed presence of the Principal-Dr. Nagashettappa Biradar, Vice Principal-Dr. Manjunatha Prasad R., and HOD -Dr. M. Mrunalini. The event commenced with the unveiling of a grand trophy, marking the beginning of various competitions and technical sessions. The delegates spoke about the importance of technical fests and how they help students nurture their programming skills and innovation.

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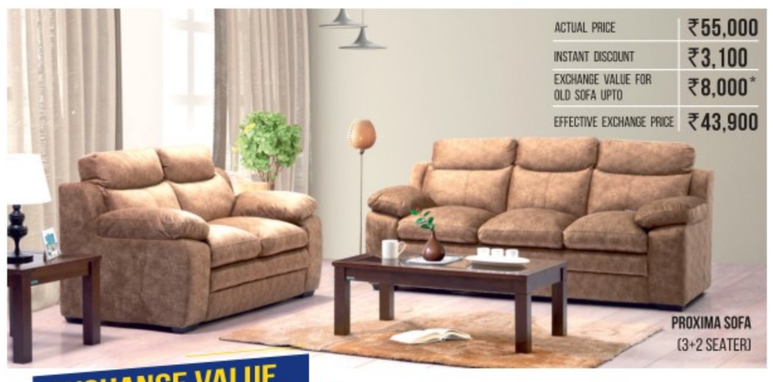
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THE HINDU

Sustainable streets

Namma Raste, the three-day event held in Bengaluru, laid out a roadmap for a better city

Sathya Prakash Varanashi

If we ask visitors to the city what they notice the most, their answers may include buildings, streets, vehicles, gardens, and monuments. While a city cannot exist without buildings, buildings themselves cannot exist without streets.

Streets are to a city what blood vessels are to the body. But are they significant enough to be the focus of a conference? The resounding success of the 'Namma Raste' event, held in Bengaluru from February 20 to 22, suggests they are.

Organised by BBMP in collaboration with WRI India, the World Resource Institute, this was the second edition of Namma Raste. The event had WRI India as the knowledge partner, alongside 65 other contributors from academic, research, and civil society organisations. Their collective efforts focused on data-driven, sustainable, safe, and citizen-centric urban mobility.

A key highlight of the event was the release of Namma Raste Kaipidi, a manual jointly developed by BBMP, WRI India, and IISc.

This manual captures best practices for sustainable streets, emphasising better design, engineering, and maintenance. It also explores solutions for safer school zones, station precincts, and urban spaces, making it a first-of-its-kind guide in India and a crucial reference for BBMP.

The event featured contributions from several key organizations, including BBMP, BMRCL, BMTC, DULT, K-Ride, Traffic Police, and B.CAP (Bangalore Climate Action & Resilience Plan), all of whom shared their visions for urban mobility. Students from institutions such as Srishti, RV, BMS, Ramaiah, and Manipal showcased their academic studies in art and architecture. BBMP also presented its mega projects, alongside precinct studies conducted by consultants like SDeG.

Emphasising small, actionable initiatives, Namma Raste provided a plan for improving the city's streets through community-driven efforts. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Among the event's most significant contributors was WRI India, which provided research insights, curated posters, and played a leading role in organising the conference. Other notable participants included IISc's IST Lab, which examined sustainable transport; TUMMOC, which discussed integrated ticketing systems; Namma Yatri, which promoted local auto-rickshaws; and MoveInSync, which analysed traffic quality. Sensing Local focused on urban design solutions, while PotHole Raja proposed ideal road maintenance strategies. Everyday City Lab explored shading solutions, Bangalore Walks led the Walkaluru initiative, and India Rising Trust reimagined under-flyover spaces.

Other contributions included ITDP's study on air pollution, Voltrix's advocacy for a 15-minute city model, and Compartment S4's analysis of crash data. HSR Citizen Forum emphasised feeder services, while APD India pushed for better accessibility. B.PAC encouraged public participation, Bengawalk reviewed bus stop infrastructure, and Pedaluru promoted cycling. Jana Urban Space advocated for public spaces, CSTEP emphasised scientific approaches, and the Bangalore Apartments Federation championed cultural spaces. Toyota Mobility Foundation supported universal accessibility, while ALSTOM contributed insights on low-emission transport. Numerous other initiatives also made their mark at the event.

Namma Raste was not just a conference – it was a major public consultation seminar that laid out a roadmap for a better city. It demonstrated how a multitude of small, citizen-driven initiatives can collectively enhance mobility, accessibility, and safety.

Namma Raste, a major public consultation seminar, gave a road map to a better city, advising and proving how multitudes of small initiatives can improve the city's mobility, facility, accessibility and safety. Small is beautiful, said economist E.F. Schumacher. Small is necessary, said architect Laurie Baker. Small is doable, as we all know.

While discussions about Greater Bangalore often focus on mega-projects and large budgets, these can lead to greater urbanisation and more challenges. Instead, what Namma Raste showcased were not unattainable large-scale plans but practical, actionable solutions that citizens can implement at scale. For Bengaluru to truly become a greater city, the government must support and empower these grassroots efforts.

(The author is an urban designer, heritage conservationist and ecological architect in Bengaluru.)

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SNIPPETS

Escalation in construction cost of three *bhavans* flagged

Three *bhavans* being constructed in Mangaluru have had a similar problem of cost escalation after the project had been approved, Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi told the Legislative Council on Friday in response to a question from Congress member Ivan D'Souza. He said Konkani Bhavan's cost had escalated from ₹3 crore to ₹6 crore and Byari Bhavan's cost went up from ₹6 crore to ₹9 crore. The cost of Abbakka Bhavan, estimated at ₹8 crore, had also seen an escalation, he said.

Three clear UPSC exam with govt. support

Of the 504 candidates who prepared for civil services with financial assistance from the State government, three have so far succeeded in clearing the UPSC examination to qualify for all-India services such as IAS and IPS. This was disclosed in the Legislative Council by Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa on Friday in response to a question from Janata Dal (Secular) legislator C.N. Manje Gowda. The Minister said that though numbers are low in the UPSC examination, the candidates studying in Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru received exposure and had been successful in clearing the KPSC examination. "Not all will get selected since the examination for IAS and IPS posts is tough," he said.

No decision yet on closure of universities, says CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told the Legislative Assembly on Friday that the government would take a decision on the closure or continuation of seven universities, established during the previous BJP government, based on the findings of the sub-committee of the State Cabinet.

The Chief Minister said no decision had been taken yet on the closure of the universities. A decision would be taken after the sub-committee submits its report to the State Cabinet. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar is heading the panel.

Earlier, former Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who wanted to initiate a debate on the government's move said closure of universities would lead to denial of opportunities for students to undertake higher studies.

Coconut trees on 1.48 lakh hectares hit by whitefly disease

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP and JD(S) members seek compensation of ₹50,000 per acre

Coconut trees on 1.48 lakh hectares in 14 districts across the State have been affected by whitefly disease, Minister for Industries M.B. Patil informed the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

In reply to a question by Suresh Babu (JD-S), the Minister said coconut trees on 64,457 hectares in Tumakuru district and 34,530 hectares in Hassan district had been affected by high populations of whiteflies.

Widely spread

The disease has spread widely and affected the coconut yield in Chikkamagaluru, Mandya, Mysuru, Davangere, Chitradurga, Shivamogga, Dakshina Kannada, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural, and Kolar districts.

Replying on behalf of Minister for Horticulture, Mines, and Geology S.S. Mallikarjun, Mr. Patil said that by increasing the natural immunity of coconut trees, pests and diseases, including whitefly, could be controlled. A grant of ₹15.31 crore had been provided under the Coconut Development Board Scheme for integrated nutrient management during the current year. Under the scheme, ₹35,000 per hectare would be provided for a period of two years to maintain the demonstration plots.

During 2023-24, ₹60.33 crore was utilised for conducting demonstrations on 34,617 hectares by 50,612 farmers, Mr. Patil said.

Since the use of pesticides for whitefly control is not very effective, awareness among farmers is being created. On spraying of pesticides using drones, the Minister said drones would not be effective in coconut plantations.

Mr. Suresh Babu and Suresh Gowda (BJP) said the disease had brought down coconut yield by over 50% this year, and the price of coconut was rising. They demanded a compensation of ₹50,000 per acre of coconut plantation.

Opposition picks up on govt. using SCSP/TSP money on guarantees

BJP calls it 'misuse' while Congress insists that it is a 'false narrative' being built by the saffron party

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Launching yet another tirade against the Congress government's guarantee schemes, Opposition members in the Legislative Council on Friday took objection to a part of the money earmarked for Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) being used to fund the guarantee schemes, resulting in a volley of words and an adjournment.

Intervening during the Question Hour, Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said that provision of 7 C in the Karnataka Scheduled Castes Sub-Allocation and Tribal-Sub Allocation (Planning, Allocation and Utilisation of Financial Resources) Act, 2013, is being "misused" to divert the funds for the guarantee schemes even though the government had removed the provision of 7 D to prevent the misuse of funds.

Continues tirade: Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Leader of the Opposition, speaking in the Legislative Council on Friday.

Meagre sum

"There are specific schemes to empower the communities to which the money has to be allocated. Of the ₹42,000 crore allocated in the Budget, the SC/ST communities will receive just about ₹7,000 crore. The allocation for the community development corporations has reduced from ₹510 crore last year to ₹430 crore this year," he said.

Earlier, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, responding to questions from JD(S) member T.A. Sharavana and BJP member Hemalatha Nayak, refuted the allegations that the provision of 7 C was being misused. "All governments in the past have used the money to fund community members as part of general schemes. Money is not being diverted," he said. While Opposition and ruling party members sparred, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, who failed to bring peace, walked out, adjourning the House for half an hour.

When the House reconvened, Ministers, including Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge, sought an opportunity to set right the "false narrative" of the BJP. "During the BJP rule, ₹7,000 crore to ₹8,000 crore had been diverted under 7 D. But our government is committed to protecting constitutional provisions. We are ready to discuss the issue," Dr. Mahadevappa said, adding that the Centre had allocated just 5% in its Budget for SC/ST welfare. Though Mr. Horatti allowed Mr. Kharge to speak, he cut his speech short after a while when BJP members took objection as the Minister pointed out to lapses in funds meant for SC/ST welfare during the BJP regime.

Of water and milk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Council saw some heated moments over some remarks of Janata Dal (Secular) member T.A. Sharavana while addressing Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge.

When Mr. Sharavana said he had "not consumed as much water as Mr. Kharge had consumed milk", suggesting that the Minister came from a privileged background, an incensed Mr. Kharge shot back on being targeted constantly.

Mr. Kharge said he had become a target for political rivals because of the community to which he belongs and that people find it hard to digest it whenever he raises issues. He said that, in his entire political career, he had not made wild allegations, and all accusations were based on documents and facts.

Earlier, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had defended using the SCSP/TSP funds for the guarantee schemes, saying that it was in proportion to the population size of the communities and therefore it was not diversion.

BJP rival camps vie with each other to woo Lingayats

M.P. Renukacharya

Basangouda R. Patil Yatnal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Both Vijayendra supporters and the rival camp firm on holding community conventions

The infighting in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has taken a stronger caste turn, with both the camps insisting on holding community conventions.

The efforts to woo the Lingayat community began with the rebel camp holding a meeting of a few Lingayat leaders in Bengaluru a few weeks ago to drive home a message that they are in support of the community. Responding to this, supporters of BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra have been making preparations for some time now to hold a huge convention of Lingayats in a show of strength.

'Before May 15'

The fight over getting the support of the Lingayat community between the rival camps of the BJP got intense on Friday with supporters of Mr. Vijayendra declaring that there was no question of cancelling the proposed convention to be held in Davangere though their top leaders have advised them to drop the plan. The camp's prominent member M.P. Renukacharya told media persons that they would hold their convention titled 'Veerashaiva Maha Sangama' before May 15.

Countering these efforts, rebel camp leader and MLA Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal told media persons that they would also organise a massive convention of Hindus in Davangere itself soon after the convention of supporters of Mr. Vijayendra. He reiterated that veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa and Mr. Vijayendra were not the sole leaders for the Lingayat community.

Not much work done on integrated township project at KGF: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Urban Development Minister B.S. Suresh informed the Legislative Assembly on Friday that no major work had been taken up for developing an integrated township at KGF town in Kolar district.

In a reply to Roopakala M. (Congress) during the Question Hour, Mr. Suresh said the government had announced integrated townships in the State Budget for 2024-25. The integrated township on nearly 1,000 acres of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML) would be developed after receiving a feasibility report from a consulting agency.

Urban Development Minister B.S. Suresh speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Friday.

Out of 1,000 acres, industries would be developed on 700 acres and an integrated township, including housing and other facilities, would be created on 300 acres. So far, only the boundary has been demarcated and stones have been kept for construction of the boundary.

The project requires thousands of crores of rupees, and it would be developed on a PPP model. Action on developing the project would be taken after obtaining the feasibility report. The department has taken up integrated township projects for the first time, Mr. Suresh said.

Ms. Roopakala urged the Minister expedite the project so as to provide jobs to locals.

No irregularities in buying health kits, says Santosh Lad

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has denied any irregularities in procuring health kits at a cost of ₹75 crore to address the problem of anaemia among construction workers.

'At a higher cost'

While BJP member N. Ravi Kumar said though the cost of medicines supplied to about 12.39 lakh women workers would ideally be around ₹953 for each kit in the market, they have been procured at a cost of ₹2,600 each. Seeking an inquiry into the procurement process, he said the whole tender had been split to benefit one company that has supplied the medicines.

During a preventive health care drive conducted during 2023-2024, 17% of the women were found to be anaemic, following which the decision to supply the kits was taken, Labour Minister Santosh Lad said.

"The procurement was done through the KTPP Act and the lowest bidder was selected to supply the medicine. Splitting work in the tender process has been happening. A transparent process cannot be questioned. If there are irregularities in the tender process, we will take action," he said.

Two students from Kerala submit petition to KEA requesting it to reschedule CET

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Common Entrance Test is scheduled to be held from April 16 to 18; they say the dates clash with Christian religious ceremonies

Two students from Kerala have given a representation to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) requesting it to reschedule the Common Entrance Test (CET), which is slated to be held from April 16 to 18.

The students, Liya Wilson and Binsha Maria Shibu, have submitted their applications to appear for the CET to seek admission to BSc Nursing course in Karnataka. However, they want the CET to be rescheduled as they say the test dates, April 16, 17, and 18, clash with the Christian religious ceremonies, including Good Friday, and they do not want to miss the test in Karnataka.

"April 17 is observed as 'Maundy Thursday' and it is Good Friday on April 18... A majority of Christian students do write the CET with an ambition to get nursing seats in Karnataka," the students said in their representation while complaining that the test dates in Karnataka were fixed without proper application of mind about the annual Christian religious ceremonies.

The exams for Physics and Chemistry have been scheduled for April 16, and Mathematics and Biology for April 17. The Kannada language test for Horanadu and Gadianadu Kannadigas will be held on April 18.

Students from outside Karnataka can write the CET only for admission to nursing courses.

Earlier, these two students had filed a petition before the High Court of Karnataka seeking directions to the KEA to reschedule the test. However, they withdrew the petition when the court questioned its maintainability as they had not approached the KEA. The court had given them liberty to submit a representation to the KEA on their grievances while asking the KEA to take appropriate decision on their representation by March 17, if they submitted any representation.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prasanna H., KEA Executive Director, said, "An appropriate decision will be taken after discussing the matter with the government."

According to sources, this time, 3,30,530 students have registered for the CET. There will be no government holidays or religious ceremonies in Karnataka on the days of the core subject exams scheduled for April 16 and 17. A total of 2,537 students have registered for the Kannada language exam to be held on April 18 for Horanadu and Gadinadu Kannadigas, out of which 115 students belong to the Christian community. "However, neither of the two students who have petitioned the KEA demanding the change in CET schedule have registered for the April 18 Kannada exam. Therefore, the demand for rescheduling the CET is irrelevant," said KEA sources.

"All preparations for CET-2025 have been made. The II PU exam will be completed on March 20, which will give students ample time to prepare for the CET. The Undergraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (UG-NEET) for admission to medical courses will be held on May 4. So, the dates fixed for the CET are most suitable in the interest of students," said the source.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that our client intends to purchase all that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.861, measuring East to West 90 + 106/2 feet and North to South 80 feet, in all totally measuring 871.11 Square Yards or 7839.99 Square feet, formed on properties bearing survey numbers 9/1, 9/2B, 3, 11/1 & 2, 12/2A, 3, 4A, 18/1A & 1B, 18/2, 14/2, 3, 5& 6, 89/1 & 2, 90, 91/2A, 91/4 to 6, 94/3, 97, 98/1, 98/5, 6 & 9, 99, 100 (part), 101/1, 2 & 3, 102/2, 3, & 4, 104/1, 104/3A, 104/3B, 108, 108 (part), 110/1, 2, 3A, 3B & 4, 11/2 & 3, 112, situated at Allalasandra, Chikkabommasandra and Jakkur Plantation, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangaluru Urban District, which is morefully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property" from its rightful joint owners Mr. Venkatachalam Subramanian also known as Mr. Subramanian son of Mr. M. Venkatachalam and Mr. Sendhur Gautham son of Mr. Gautham Mohan.

Any person having any right, claim, title, interest in the Schedule Property or having any objection to the sale must notify the undersigned with documentary proof thereof **within 15 days** of this publication, failing which it shall be deemed that no person has any objection to our Client purchasing the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE
(description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.861, measuring East to West 90 + 106/2 feet and North to South 80 feet, in all totally measuring 871.11 Square Yards or 7839.99 Square feet, formed on properties bearing survey numbers 9/1, 9/2B, 3, 11/1 & 2, 12/2A, 3, 4A, 18/1A & 1B, 18/2, 14/2, 3, 5& 6, 89/1 & 2, 90, 91/2A, 91/4 to 6, 94/3, 97, 98/1, 98/5, 6 & 9, 99, 100 (part), 101/1, 2 & 3, 102/2, 3, & 4, 104/1, 104/3A, 104/3B, 108, 108 (part), 110/1, 2, 3A, 3B & 4, 11/2 & 3, 112, situated at Allalasandra, Chikkabommasandra and Jakkur Plantation, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangaluru Urban District, and bounded on: **East by :** Road; **West by :** Site No. 860; **North by :** Site No. 862; **South by :** Site No. 858.

Abhijit Atur, Advocate,
M/s Agraa Legal,
3rd Floor, Shravanee Krishna Mansion,
Ashoka Pillar Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block,
Bengaluru – 56011.

Place: Bangalore
Date:15.03.2025

4,675 villages in Karnataka getting drinking water under JJM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State is providing drinking water under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in 4,675 villages out of 26,592 villages where works have been initiated.

According to data provided by RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge to the Legislative Council, based on a question from BJP member C.T. Ravi, of the about ₹65,000 crore earmarked for the project in Karnataka, ₹32,377 crore had been released and ₹28,896 crore has been spent so far. When the member pointed at poor-quality work, lack of a source of water, and other issues, Mr. Kharge said a sample size of 1,550 villages where the work had been evaluated by a third-party agency had also thrown up reports of poor-quality work, which is now being rectified.

Will support move against delimitation, says Pinarayi

Expressing solidarity with the T.N. government, the Kerala CM says the Centre should be ready to take a decision on delimitation of Lok Sabha seats after arriving at a consensus with the States

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan with Tamil Nadu IT Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and DMK MP Thamizhachi Thangapandian.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has expressed solidarity with the Tamil Nadu government's efforts to unite non-Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled States on a common platform to resist any move by the Union government for arbitrary delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies, which contravenes the Constitution's federalist principles and allegedly seeks to favour the ruling coalition at the Centre.

He put forward Kerala's stance on the issue to Tamil Nadu IT Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and DMK MP Thamizhachi Thangapandian during their visit on Friday to invite Mr. Vijayan to the Joint Action Committee (JAC) that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is spearheading to bring together leaders from States likely to be affected by the delimitation process.

Meet on March 22

A solidarity meeting has been convened in Chennai on March 22 in what is seen as the beginning of a united movement against the Centre's "rushed moves" to delimit the Lok Sabha constituencies.

Mr. Vijayan said, "The Centre should be ready to take a decision on the issue of delimitation of Lok Sabha seats after arriving at a consensus with the States. It should be carried out without reducing the existing proportional share of seats of any State. States that have effectively implemented population control measures in accordance with the policies introduced by the Centre should not be penalised".

'No clarity'

He said that the Centre's arguments that the southern States would get additional share of seats on a pro-rata basis cannot be taken at face value. The Centre has not been able to provide clarity on whether this pro-rata distribution is based on the percentage of the current parliamentary seats or on the basis of population figures.

The Tamil Nadu Minister and the MP also called on CPI State Secretary Binoy Viswam, CPI(M) State Secretary M.V. Govindan, representatives of Kerala Congress Chairperson P.J. Joseph, IUML president Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal and extended the invitation for the JAC meeting on behalf of Mr. Stalin.

Search teams deploy pump to remove silt from SLBC tunnel

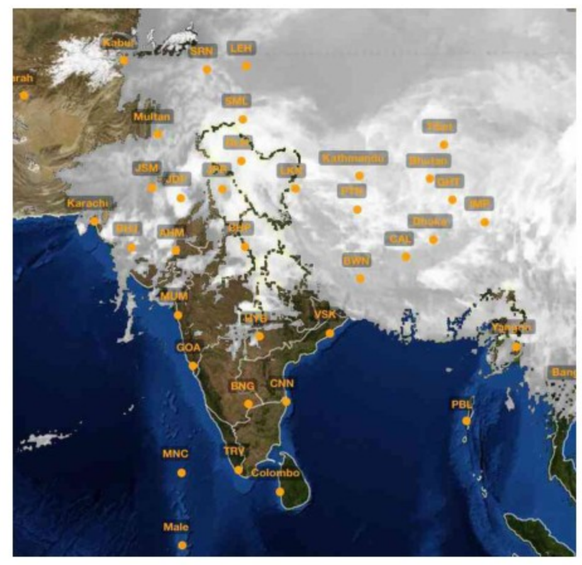
The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The multi-agency search teams engaged in tracing the remaining seven persons trapped under the debris inside the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana, deployed one more new equipment – a liquid ring vacuum pump – on Friday, the 21st day of the accident. It will help pump out a maximum of 620 cubic metres of silt per hour.

According to officials heading the rescue operation, clearing hardened silt – which mostly comprises rock sand, soil and water along with debris, including metal – is proving not only to be time consuming but also challenging, given the adverse conditions prevailing in the tunnel length that was occupied by the TBM.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with hailstorm/gusty winds/lightning likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.7	25.0	Kozhikode	—	35.5	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	39.3	24.0	Kurnool	—	41.2	25.6
Aizawl	—	32.8	17.0	Lucknow	2	35.0	19.0
Allahabad	—	38.4	17.6	Madurai	—	35.5	24.1
Bengaluru	—	35.4	20.6	Mangaluru	—	33.7	25.1
Bhopal	—	37.2	19.6	Mumbai	—	34.5	24.1
Bhubaneswar	—	37.2	24.0	Mysuru	—	39.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	30.7	14.6	New Delhi	—	36.2	17.6
Chennai	—	33.0	25.7	Patna	—	34.6	21.4
Coimbatore	—	35.5	22.7	Port Blair	—	32.5	25.3
Dehradun	—	31.8	13.7	Puducherry	—	32.6	24.0
Gangtok	44	17.7	10.5	Pune	—	40.6	23.7
Goa	—	34.0	26.0	Raipur	—	39.8	24.5
Guwahati	—	27.5	17.8	Ranchi	—	35.9	18.4
Hubballi	—	37.0	22.0	Shillong	—	18.0	8.0
Hyderabad	—	38.4	23.6	Shimla	—	25.8	10.3
Imphal	1.2	27.2	15.5	Srinagar	1	9.5	6.0
Jaipur	—	34.8	21.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.8	26.4
Kochi	—	33.0	27.2	Tiruchi	—	35.1	23.6
Kohima	—	18.8	10.0	Vijayawada	—	37.2	25.2
Kolkata	—	37.4	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.5	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.36	..68	11	... 101	87	
Bengaluru	...9	..—	31	 39	...143	
Chennai	.15	..18	30	 86	89	
Delhi	.26	105	89	... 227	...216	
Hyderabad	...6	102	10	... 166	...115	
Kolkata	...3	..10	23	... 100	99	
Lucknow	...9	..54	43	... 174	...158	
Mumbai	...5	..33	22	... 206	...152	
Pune	..—	..48	70	... 205	...160	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..53	16	 40	91	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 292 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Girls sprayed with contaminated water

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Four girl students were hospitalised in Gadag district with complaints of uneasiness and vomiting after miscreants sprayed coloured water reportedly laced with chemical fertiliser on them, on Friday.

The incident occurred at Suvarnagiri Tanda near Laxmeshwar in Gadag district when the girls were waiting to catch a bus to their school in Laxmeshwar.

When some youngsters approached and asked if they could spray colour on them on account of Holi, the girls requested them not to, primarily because they were to take an exam. Despite their request, the miscreants sprayed them with the liquid and also sprayed some of it inside the bus they had boarded. The water was reportedly a mix of cowdung, eggs and chemical fertiser.

Four of the girls fell ill on reaching Laxmeshwar and started vomiting after alighting the bus. They were immediately shifted to the community health centre in Laxmeshwar where they were given first aid. Subsequently, two others among them – Gouri Pujar and Divya Lamani – complained of chest pain and breathlessness, they were shifted to GIMS Hospital in Gadag where they are recuperating.

Haveri nurse's murder turns communal

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

With the arrest of an accused from the Muslim community in Haveri district, the murder of a nurse, who went missing in the first week of March, has taken a communal colour now.

Boyfriend arrested

The crime that occurred on March 3 came to light on the Thursday after the post-mortem report confirmed death by strangulation, consequently resulting in the arrest of 28-year-old Niyaz Bennigere, a resident of Hale Veerapur in Hirekerur taluk of Haveri district. His accomplices, identified as Durgachari Badiger and Vinayak Pujar, are still at large.

The 22-year-old victim, Swati Byadgi, was a native of Masur village in Rattihalli taluk. She worked as a staff nurse at a private hospital in Ranebennur. Swati went incommunicado on March 3 and her family members filed a missing complaint with Rattihalli Police Station on March 7.

Body found in river

Meanwhile, on March 6, a woman's body was found in the Tungabhadra river near Pattepur village under Halagere Police limits. As the body was decomposed, the police carried out the burial after filing a report and conducting post-mortem. After the missing complaint was filed by Swati's family, the police authorities identified the body as hers by comparing photographs.

This was later confirmed by her parents.

After the post-mortem confirmed death by strangulation, the police verified her call records, which led them to Niyaz, said to be her boyfriend, leading to his arrest.

Superintendent of Police Anshukumar Srivastava told presspersons that Niyaz had called Swati to Suvarna Park in Ranebennur. He had also called his friends Durgesh and Vinayak there.

"As negotiations over their marriage failed, Niyaz and his friends took her to an abandoned school building near Kabbinakanti Mutt at Rattihalli, where they strangulated her with a fabric. After confirming her death, they ferried the body in Vinayak's vehicle and threw it into the Tungabhadra from the bridge between Kusagatti and Nandigudi villages, the same evening," he said.

Two years

According to the police, Niyaz and Swati were in a relationship for the last two years, while Niyaz recently got engaged to a girl from his community.

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Department of Agriculture
Commissionerate of Agriculture
Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 001.

No.: DoA/Comp/i7 Desktop/2024-25 Date:11.03.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) invites the short-term tender for Supply of 16 number of i7 Desktop Computer, through e-procurement portal in accordance with the Bid Document.

The Bid document containing instructions to Bidders, criteria for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be downloaded from the e-Procurement Website of "GoK" **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the Proposals shall be submitted as per the provisions of the tender document.

Bid submission closing date : 27.03.2025. **Opening of bid documents:** 29.03.2025. **EMD:** Rs 30,000/- (Rs. Thirty thousand only). **Bid Security:** Rs. 75,000/- (Rs. Seventy five thousand Only)

Project Proponent: Department of Agriculture, GoK. **Contact Person:** Shri Manju A.C. Deputy Director of Agriculture (Comp). **Address:** Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, Sheshadri Rd, Bangalore-01

Phone: +91-80-22074138/8277929834. **Email:** agri.kar 2024@gmail.com

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture &
Tender Inviting Authority.

DIPR/CP/JA/5659/2024-25

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ–571 401
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone: 08232-231003, 222086, 231197, 224040, Fax: 08232-231001
E-Mail Address: mimsmandyaoffice@gmail.com,
mimsmandya@gmail.com

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ – (ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಿಮ್ಸ್/ಸರಬ(ಡಿ)/Inj & Fluids/ಇ–ಟೆಂ/10/2024-25
ದಿ:12.03.2025

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬೋಧಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಔಷಧ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು (Injection, Fluids items) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಖೇನ ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರವರಿಂದ/ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಮಾರಾಟಗಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು (ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.02.2025 ರಿಂದ 17.03.2025) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ e-portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡದ ಕಾರಣ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಜಿಒಕೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ : 01. ವಿವರಗಳು : Injection & IV Fluids. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ). 431.00. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : 6,46,500/-. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12.03.2025. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಖ : 15.03.2025.

ಸಹಿ/–ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಮಂಡ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ,
ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಇಎ/758/2024–25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Sarvagnanagara Division, 7th Floor, P.U.Building,
M.G.Road, Bengaluru-560001

No.: E.E.(SGN)/KPPP/Tend/17/2024-25 Date : 13-03-2025

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER (NIT)
(Single Cover System Notification) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Sarvagnanagara Division), East Zone BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organization for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Filling up of Pot Holes in Ward No. 83 Subbayyanapalya for the year 2024-25 (Call-2). **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 18,750/-
2	Maintenance of BBMP Buildings / Offices in Ward No. 82 Kammanahalli. **Approximate value of work :** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 25,000/-

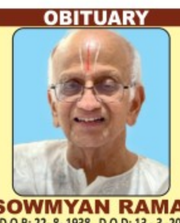
Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from **17.03.2025 (2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **24.03.2025 upto 4.00 P.M. (3)** Date of Opening of Tenders is on **25.03.2025** if possible or next working day **11.00 A.M.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Sarvagnanagar), BBMP

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



SOWMYAN RAMAN
D.O.B: 22- 8- 1938 D.O.D: 13 - 3 -2025
Passed away in Seattle,USA
Deeply mourned by
Gita Raman, Vidya Tinku Raman, RamchandranKalyanam,Nivaas, Dayven,Shivam, Rupa Raman, Kartik, Ajay, Neela, Brother & Sisters
Contact: 001 425 205 5916
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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಎ4/ಹೊ.ಗು/ಟೆಂಡರ್//2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–03–2025

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆನರಾ ವೃತ್ತ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಕಾಳಿ ಹುಲಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ದಾಂಡೇಲಿಯ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ಲಿಪಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು (ಡಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್) ಹಾಗೂ ವಲಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿ ಕಳ್ಳಬೇಟೆ ಶಿಬಿರಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರಣ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಶಿಬಿರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡಂತೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದ್ವೀ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–03–2025 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕಾದ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಅನುಸೂಚಿ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ವಿವರಗಳು	ಪರಿಮಾಣ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ
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(1) ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು / ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–03–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆ (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–03–2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–03–2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.35 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–03–2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಈ ಕೆಳ ಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಅಣಶಿ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/983/24-25 Dt.13.03.2025

A voluntary mandate

The APAAR ID should not be imposed without a law in place

The introduction of an Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) ID by the Ministry of Education, to digitise the academic transcripts of every student, aims to ensure a "single source of truth" for all their records throughout their life in the academic ecosystem in India. Linked with Aadhaar, APAAR is far from the first such step towards a rapid digitisation of school records in India: since the implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020, education authorities have pushed the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) and the Student Database Management Information System. While these radically novel technocratic overhauls of record-keeping are one thing, the blatantly unlawful ways in which they are being pushed on parents and wielded as weapons at the State level are quite another. The description of APAAR as unlawful is no mere interpretation: the Education Ministry's website is clear that the programme is not mandatory, with no law mandating its usage. But schools and district education administrators do not seem to be operating within that reality.

In Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, schools have been given an unambiguous target: 100% "saturation," or complete enrolment of all students. In their fervour to attain this target, schools have warned parents of consequences in the event of non-enrolment, and State education authorities have rattled their sabres at religious minority institutions and even at fellow administrators, alleging a mismatch of enrolment data between APAAR and existing records. In the initial days of what has now been rechristened as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), the government had similarly been all too keen to propagate Aadhaar and services such as Digi Yatra to an unsuspecting (and too often non-consenting) public, achieving such broad coverage that a formal mandate later becomes a *fait accompli*. All-too-familiar issues such as name mismatches, leading to failure of enrolment, have also emerged. It is important for informed consent to be the bedrock of any DPI. Else, it risks being mandated de facto. Collecting and digitising this data – with tall claims of security and convenience – should be alarming when the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 has yet to take effect. More importantly, the Supreme Court of India has ruled, in its right to privacy judgment, that Aadhaar cannot be mandated for basic education. APAAR is an ill-disguised proxy that steers clear of the text – but not the spirit – of that judgment. If the government wishes to undertake the goal of improving the reliability and accessibility of education records, it should back its administration of that effort with legislation.

Identities and symbols

Cultural markers need not be seen as a challenge to nationalism

Even as the ruling DMK government in Tamil Nadu engages in a political discourse with the BJP-led regime at the Centre over the delimitation of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies and the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), its use of the Tamil letter 'Roo' ('ரூ') instead of the Indian currency symbol '₹' in the promotional logo for the State budget has drawn nationwide attention. The logo, which was unveiled by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has been seen by political opponents as an attempt to place regional identity in opposition to national identity. However, the use of 'Roo' is more a symbolic representation of Tamil – one of India's many languages – than an outright rejection of the currency symbol '₹'. The Tamil Nadu government, like many others, continues to be flexible in adopting different symbols – '₹', 'Rs', and 'ரூ' – in its official documents. In fact, the widespread use of '₹' in the State's first Economic Survey reinforces the idea that cultural and linguistic diversity, rather than political intent, governs such choices.

While Tamil Nadu has taken longer than other southern States to release an Economic Survey, the document is a valuable addition to literature on the State's economy. Forecasting a growth rate of over 8% in 2024-25, the Survey contextualises the State's economy within global and national economic trends. As a major exporter of automobiles, textiles, leather and IT services, Tamil Nadu is more sensitive than many other States to global market fluctuations, making its growth trajectory more volatile. The Survey's observations on demographic trends are particularly relevant, given that Tamil Nadu's population growth is slowing. The challenge lies in consolidating and building upon industrial gains for long-term sustainable growth. Additionally, the Survey underscores the vulnerability of certain coastal districts in terms of climate change/natural disasters. The Survey also has a strong focus on sustainable water management practices – a subject that has historically received insufficient attention. However, the Survey could have had a more detailed analysis of the State's finances and the socio-economic challenges faced by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who make up over one-fifth of the population. As more States publish their own Economic Surveys – the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir tabled its Survey recently – there is an opportunity now for economists, public policy experts and academics to conduct comparative analyses. Such studies, shared in public forums, could encourage other States that have yet to attempt similar reports to undertake their own economic assessments, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of India's diverse economic landscape.

Modern day summitry, its perils and its prospects

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Across the world, there is broad agreement, including in the area of politics and diplomacy, that a strong leader can be useful. The term, no doubt, carries more than one interpretation, but is generally taken to mean a leader who concentrates a great deal of power in his hands and dominates both a wide swathe of public policy and also the political party to which he or she belongs.

In today's world, United States President Donald Trump and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi are presumed to fall into this category. Confirming this perception very recently, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (addressing a Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington via video link) mentioned Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi as two strong leaders who are now shaping 'A New Conservative Movement'. Both leaders also appear more than willing to engage in modern day summit diplomacy, even though it contains both positives and negatives as far as outcomes are concerned. Wielding power decisively has its benefits. However, belief in one's sole judgment can have many negative consequences or fallout. Nevertheless, summit diplomacy has increasingly become the stock-in-trade of 'maximum leader' when it comes to issues such as war and peace.

From the past to the present

Most commentators link the beginning of summit diplomacy to the Congress of Vienna (1814-15), which sought to reshape the map of Europe after the Napoleonic Wars. More recently, summit diplomacy has been resorted to in conflict resolution and peace building. The Camp David Accords, signed in 1978, which led to a tentative peace between Egypt and Israel, is a conspicuous example of the success of modern day summitry. Another significant instance of the advantage of summit diplomacy was the interaction between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev, leader of the Soviet Union, which helped to significantly reduce Cold War tensions. However, there are many more instances of failures than successes in the course of resorting to summit diplomacy. More often than not, the desire for visible success at a summit leads to superficial agreements or compromises that lack substance.

This is more true in the case of leaders who, notwithstanding the real outcome, are anxious to sustain their image of being a strong leader. A classic instance of this was how the West misinterpreted reality in the case of Iraq under Saddam Hussein, *viz.*, regarding the possession of nuclear weapons by him. Summit diplomacy is, hence, fraught with several complexities.

The perils of 'pseudo' summit diplomacy are clearly evident in the backdrop of recent exchanges between Mr. Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Their heated exchanges in the White House, on February 28, 2025, showcase summit diplomacy at its worst. Summitry is normally conducted in private. The Zelenskyy-Trump summitry took place instead in the glare of publicity, and what it achieved was providing Mr. Zelenskyy another opportunity for 'grandstanding' rather than finding a solution or a mutually acceptable outcome for the Ukraine conflict. Seldom has a discussion between leaders degenerated to levels that were seen during the Trump-Zelenskyy exchanges, much of it on television. With Mr. Zelenskyy almost 'daring' Mr. Trump, well aware of his nature, this could have but one result. Mr. Trump's response was, therefore, not unexpected, and his diktat to Mr. Zelenskyy to accept the deal or else have the U.S. opt out of the Ukraine-Russia imbroglio was a *'fait accompli'*.

Mr. Zelenskyy's embarking on a new variant of summit diplomacy was by going to Washington with an offer to seal an agreement with the U.S. on handing over many billions of dollars worth of 'mineral rights', in repayment for past U.S. military aid to Ukraine.

The sequel to this is in some ways even more problematic. Europe, caught in the cross hairs of the Trump-Zelenskyy exchanges, was seen scrambling to put in place an alternative. A hurriedly arranged meeting, in London, of 19 European leaders, put forward a fresh menu of sentiments, but which was lacking in substance. The declaration by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom that Europe must "do the heavy lifting" for the future defence of Ukraine at a summit which took place "at a crossroads in history today", further adding that his country was 'willing to put boots on the ground and planes in the air to support a deal',which was met with acclaim. He did not, however, forget to add – possibly as an afterthought – that no two countries were more closely aligned than the U.K. and the U.S. The latter sentiment is, perhaps, more real. The dominant sentiment in Europe, meanwhile, appears to be that the U.S. under Mr. Trump is in no mood to pursue former U.S. President Joe Biden's strategy of supporting Zelenskyy's Ukraine.

India and a working visit

The Trump-Zelenskyy exchanges are seen in some quarters as further enhancing Mr. Trump's reputation in the realm of global politics today as being a 'bully', but this may not be all too true. In the meeting held between Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi during the Indian leader's brief working visit on February 13, 2025, there was little evidence of 'bullying' despite Mr. Trump's opposition to India's tariffs and tariff barriers. The U.S. President did, however, lash out at the tariff barriers erected by India, warning that there could be serious consequences as a result. The exchanges were, however, civil and did not tantamount to 'bullying'. No doubt, the U.S. side sought concessions and Mr. Modi did make some, but there is no evidence that he buckled under a Trump onslaught. The general consensus among analysts worldwide is that as far as the Modi-Trump meeting is concerned, the latter was not the obvious winner in the exchanges. Instead, the two 'strong leaders' seemed to adhere to Newton's 'Third Law of Motion', in which there are no winners or losers. One should not, however, overlook 'the bait' the U.S. President held out to India – the sale of F-35 fighter jets to India.

The Joint Statement issued at the end of the Modi-Trump talks was, however, 'a masterpiece in obfuscation', long on possible collaboration while containing a gratuitous nod to India's security concerns across Asia. The hidden agenda was, no doubt, on how best to increase U.S. defence sales to India. The offer of possibly the best aircraft in the world, the F-35 (which has so far not been available to India) was the 'icing on the cake' since this was a proposal that the Indian Air Force could be expected to use to pressurise the civil administration into accepting it as a counterweight to China. All in all, this was the best of possible outcomes, but given Mr. Trump's penchant for producing surprises, the outcome of the first meeting between Mr. Modi and President Trump (in his second avatar) is probably yet to be determined.

The Indian Prime Minister did resort to various stratagems to prepare the ground for his meeting with Mr. Trump. The meetings with the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, the National Security Adviser, Michael Waltz, and industrialist and Tesla CEO, Elon Musk, prior to the Trump meet reveal a degree of careful preparation, given the U.S. President's image as someone who makes few concessions. In any case, there are no set guidelines for a summit meeting of this kind. Further, in summit diplomacy, there are seldom clear cut winners or losers.

In perspective

Mr. Trump's initial forays into summit diplomacy, however, do not quite fit the mould of summitry in diplomacy, which is principally aimed at conflict resolution and peace building at one level, and building relationships and trust at another. The truth is that notwithstanding sharp divergences in national interests and power imbalances, most world leaders today embark on summit diplomacy without adequate preparation. It often turns into a public relations exercise without worthwhile outcomes. Nevertheless, summit diplomacy will continue to occupy a vital, and often indispensable, place in modern international relations. It is even possible that summit diplomacy will become even more crucial in a world facing increasingly complex challenges which demand collective actions and cooperation.

Despite obtuse exercises such as the Trump-style meets, summit diplomacy could continue to occupy a vital place in modern international relations

A school closure that must be called out

Anshul Trivedi

is a member of the Indian National Congress

The order to close down the only Gondi-medium school in a village of Maharashtra raises important questions. The school was started in Mohgaon village in the Fifth Schedule area of the Gadchiroli district, in 2019, as a result of a resolution by the gram panchayat, for tribal students to achieve better learning outcomes by imparting primary education in their mother tongue. This initiative was in consonance with Article 29 of the Constitution, which provides minorities the right to preserve distinct languages, scripts and cultures, and Article 350(a) which mandates that the state should make adequate provisions so that children of minority groups may receive instruction in their mother tongue.

However, the local administration has argued that as the school is not registered under the Right to Education Act, 2009, its standards cannot be monitored. Non-recognition would also jeopardise the future of students when they transition to higher classes. However, an education officer has said that in case of closure, the students will be 'absorbed' in other schools.

Subordination by bias

While the objection of the administration is couched in bureaucratic language, it must be emphasised that the question of recognition is fundamentally a question of power, and only derivatively that of procedure. Non-recognition of the school is linked to the structural and socio-political subordination of the Adivasi communities owing to the normative bias of the state against their language and culture. Therefore, spotlighting the moral and political context of this 'bureaucratic' refusal by the local administration becomes important.

Jawaharlal Nehru was of the firm view that the Adivasi communities must grow according to their own genius. His view was informed by the historical experience of the past two centuries which saw many tribal communities being driven to the verge of extinction as a result of the vicious violence unleashed by the colonial state across the world.

Therefore, the Constitution has provisions to preserve and protect the tribal way of life – rights over land, language, culture and customs. These provisions are intended to enable tribal communities to participate in the process of nation-building while guarding against the loss of their identity.

Forces of absorption

However, the forces of absorption, which operate in the secular and religious realms, have had an immensely deleterious impact on the tribal communities since Independence. In the secular realm, absorption is carried out by the state and the market, while in the religious realm, absorption is carried out through the denigration, distortion and erasure of tribal religious beliefs. Both these forces of absorption complement each other.

This particular case, of the school's possible closure, is one of absorption through the state which is operationalised through the non-recognition of the elements of tribal culture. This is reflected most clearly in the current status of Adivasi languages in the Constitution. Out of the 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule, major tribal languages such as Gondi and Bhili are absent.

Gondi, which according to the 2011 Census, is spoken by more than 29 lakh people primarily across six States, is not included within the Eighth Schedule. Therefore, the state has no obligation to promote it at the national level.

On the contrary, Sanskrit, which is considered the *Devbhasha* or the language of the gods, is spoken by less than 25,000 people across the country, is listed in the Eighth Schedule. The contrast between Sanskrit and Gondi is necessary in this context because both are minority languages. Both are unlikely to be amplified by the market nor can they be considered necessary in getting employment. However, both these minority languages have contrasting fates due to the socio-political power wielded by the community which seeks to promote them – one is recognised by the state while the other is neglected.

Specificity of Adivasi languages

The need to confer state recognition becomes all the more important in the case of Adivasi communities because their culture has an oral tradition which includes their originary myths, religious beliefs and tales of the past. In the present context, given the rapid erosion of the Adivasi identity due to the clearing of forests, increasing urbanisation and rampant marketisation of society, the primary site of the construction of the Adivasi identity (historical memory which is transmitted orally) may face danger. The extinction of an Adivasi language might cause irreparable loss to that identity. Therefore, Adivasi languages must be accorded special status to ensure their protection.

It is ironic that those who claim to follow the Constitution, which derives its legitimacy from 'we, the people', recognise and promote the *Devbhasha* but neglect the *Janbhasha* (language of the people) of the Adivasi people. This gross moral failure must be addressed. It can be remedied, with the first step being the recognition of the Gondi-speaking school in focus and then expanding such schools. This would be in line with the spirit of the Constitution as well.

The order to close down Maharashtra's only Gondi-medium school is also an affront to the Constitution

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

State Budget logo

The use of the Tamil letter 'Ru ' in the promotional logo for the Tamil Nadu Budget is a minor issue when compared to the fierce controversy over the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the three-language policy (Page 1, March 14). The central government must climb down from its adamant stand and stop pushing the use of Hindi through the back door. It must work sincerely for the development of all languages. When smaller countries such as Sri Lanka and Singapore which have more than two official languages are able to run smoothly, it is strange why a language issue is diverting the country's energies and attention from development and progress.

V. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

There is no denying that the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu is at loggerheads with the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government over the issue of delimitation and the three-language policy under the NEP. One wonders why it has brought in another issue which will further chafe the fraying State-Centre relationship.

S.S. Paul,
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

The Tamil Nadu government's move is an immature attempt at confrontational politics. But we are now in the second decade of the 21st century and not in the 1960s. Learning Hindi as a third language is in the best interests of the State's youth, providing them much-needed mobility and the ability to survive comfortably anywhere in India. The theatrics of the DMK is not its unbounded love for Tamil, but the approaching Assembly elections of 2026.

V. Jayaraman,
Chennai

Cap on vehicles a day

The order by the Madras High Court, on the number of vehicles entering the Nilgiris and Kodaikanal, is a pointer to the unprecedented situation the hill stations are facing. Fixing a cap on tourist vehicles could be extended to other places such as places of worship in hilly areas. This is one reason why the ropeway transport system became popular — to reduce road traffic and the number of tourists staying overnight.

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Authorities inspect the crime spot near Sanapura lake in Koppal district of Karnataka. SRIDHAR KAVALI

Near historical Hampi, a heinous crime

On the night of March 6, Bibhas Nayak from Odisha was killed and two women — an Israeli tourist and an Indian homestay operator — were gang-raped by three men when they went stargazing at Sanapura lake near Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in Karnataka. **Kumar Buradikatti** pieces together the crime that took place in a region that is generally considered safe

Trigger warning: This story contains details of rape and murder. Please avoid reading if you're distressed by the subject

Grief hangs heavy over the church at G. Udaygiri, a town in Odisha's Kandhamal district, on March 13. Around 2,000 people from across the country have gathered here, each of them carrying memories of Bibhas Nayak. On March 6, Bibhas, a 29-year-old freelancer, died in Karnataka's Koppal district, close to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi, while trying to protect two women from sexual assault and violence.

The last 'stories' that Bibhas had posted on Instagram were from the monuments of Hampi, the last capital of the Hindu kingdom of the Vijayanagara empire (14th-16th Century CE), with the caption, "Never been so fascinated by ruins". Bibhas, whose account reveals his zest for life and love for travel and adventure, had gone to Hampi after visiting Dhanushkodi and Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, and Kochi in Kerala. Hampi was the final leg of his south India tour.

"My brother would get into local trains, take buses, and stay under any roof that offered shelter from the rain. He managed his finances carefully, ensuring he could visit as many places as possible," says Bibhas' older sister, Bonhomie.

In Hampi, Bibhas, whom his friends describe as "affable", bonded with fellow travellers – Daniel, 23, from the U.S.; Pankaj, 43, from Nashik, Maharashtra; and Aliza*, 27, from Israel – and Karthika*, 29, who ran the homestay in Anegundi village, Koppal district, where all of them met.

"On March 6, Bibhas went rock climbing. Later, when someone pitched the idea of stargazing, he was excited," says Akash Paul, Bibhas' brother-in-law, who has heard the sequence of events from Pankaj and Daniel. "He and his friends went to an area near Anegundi. Three men approached the group, got into an argument with them about money, and started attacking them. When Bibhas and the others tried to stop them, they were pushed into the canal. Bibhas was an expert swimmer, but he couldn't survive because he had suffered a head injury."

The attackers allegedly gang-raped Aliza and Karthika at the spot, which is full of rocks and thorny bushes. The crime sent shockwaves through Hampi, a tourist destination which locals say has never seen such a crime in decades.

Bibhas was the son of Bijay Kumar Nayak, the 16th Moderator of the Church of North India (CNI) and Bishop of the Diocese of Agra, CNI. The last post on Bibhas' Instagram, dated July 19, 2023, was a letter from a friend and reads like a prophecy: "Yes, when you leave this world, you take nothing with you but memories of what you did. Leave nothing undone. Or unsaid. We all want to be comfortable here on Earth, but having an abundance of things is not necessary. The best thing to remember is to keep on the right path with God. Everything else will fade away."

A crime near a canal

On March 6, soon after dinner, Karthika, who hails from Tamil Nadu and has been running the homestay at Anegundi for the past four years, took Daniel, Aliza, Pankaj, and Bibhas stargazing.

According to Rajkumar, a resort owner, there are around 500 resorts and homestays within a 15-kilometre radius of Hampi, which has lush paddy fields and shrublands dotted with stone structures. Most of these are located in villages such as Anegundi, Basapura, Sanapura, Hanumana Halli, and Anjanahalli in Koppal on the northern side of the Tungabhadra river. The ancient stone monuments of Hampi, which are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), are located on the southern bank of the river in Vijayanagara district. The river serves as a border between Koppal and Vijayanagara, separating the ruins from the resorts and homestays.

> While the culprits must be held accountable, it is the government's responsibility to restore tourists' trust
>
> **PHIROZ KUMAR PRADHAN**
> Bibhas' cousin

Ravichandra, a local resident and the owner of a resort in Sanapura, who spoke to the survivors, says the group of five hopped onto scooters and left for Sanapura lake, located about 8 km from the homestay. At the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal bund, Daniel played his guitar, while the rest counted stars.

According to the police complaint filed by Karthika, three men approached the group on a motorcycle on the narrow bund road half an hour later. Speaking in Kannada, they asked where they could get petrol. "Sanapura," she replied.

Her complaint says one of the men then came closer and demanded ₹100. Karthika refused to pay the strangers. When the other two men also began demanding money, Bibhas offered them ₹20. Enraged by the amount, the three men began verbally abusing the group and hitting them with stones and Daniel's guitar. When Pankaj, Daniel, and Bibhas tried to stop two of the men from hitting the women, the third man pushed all three of them into the canal.

"Pankaj says he did not know how to swim, so Daniel came to his rescue," says Ravichandra. Bibash tried to climb the canal bund. "But one of the attackers hit him on the head and he fell back into the canal," says Ravichandra.

Meanwhile, according to the complaint, two of the attackers hit Karthika with stones and raped her. Seeing the third man assault Aliza, they joined him and raped her too. When the women's screams got louder, the attackers snatched their mobile phones, took ₹9,500 in cash from Karthika, and vanished into the night.

When Daniel and Pankaj returned to the crime spot, they found that the women were bleeding, says Ravichandra. There was no sign of Bibhas. When the panic-stricken group could not find him, they went to the nearest resort.

Ravichandra, who was at a family function, received a distress call at about 11.30 p.m. from the resort. "I called some hoteliers and friends and asked them to rush to the resort and assist the group in every possible way," he says. He adds that he called Somashekhar Juttal, the Circle Inspector of Police attached to Gangavathi Rural, and shared the location of the victims.

Foreign tourists cycle near the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal. SRIDHAR KAVALI

About past midnight, Ravichandra arrived at the resort. "The police were already there. Within a few minutes, an ambulance came and took the victims to a government hospital in Gangavathi (about 20 km away)," he says.

Ravichandra joined his friends and the police in the search for Bibhas. "We searched until 4 in the morning, but couldn't find him," he says.

On the morning of March 7, following the complaint lodged by Karthika, an FIR was registered at Gangavathi Rural police station under Sections 309(6) (robbery), 70(1) (gang rape), 109 (attempt to murder) read with 3(5) (joint criminal liability) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

The same day, the Koppal police recovered Bibhas' body near a powerhouse gate at Mallapur in the district. Friends say Bibhas, who could "never make an enemy" and who was "the life of any gathering", died trying to save lives.

At Bibhas' memorial service, Jenipher Walker, whose older brother was Bibhas' friend and who had flown down from Delhi to Odisha, says, "I don't understand why anyone would be so angry with Bibhas. He knew nothing but kindness."

Karthika, Aliza, Pankaj, and Daniel were treated for a couple of days and then discharged from the hospital. While a traumatised Karthika returned to the homestay, Aliza, who had been treated for injuries, wanted to go back to Israel, says Koppal Superintendent of Police Ram L. Arasiddi. The police accompanied her to the airport.

A search from the river to a beach

On March 7, the day Bibhas' body was found, Arasiddi formed six teams to nab the culprits. "The teams examined the CCTV footage installed in the shops along the road connected to the crime spot," says the officer investigating the case. "The footage led us to a locality that is predominantly inhabited by the working population in Gangavathi." The police identified the three culprits as Mallesh Dasara (22), Chetan Sai (21), and Sharanabasavaraj (30). All three did irregular masonry work. The police found Mallesh and Chetan, but Sharanabasavaraj managed to escape.

"Two of the accused were arrested and have admitted to the crime. We are investigating whether they have any criminal background," Arasiddi said at a press conference.

"Tracing Sharanabasavaraj was a challenge as he did not use a mobile phone. We kept all the phones of his close friends and relatives under surveillance in the hope that he would contact them," says a police officer.

After escaping, the accused made his first call to one of the numbers that were under police surveillance. "He made the call from the mobile phone of a passer-by in Raichur and asked for money," says the officer.

A police team reached Raichur and examined CCTV footage and found that Sharanabasavaraj had gone from the bus stand to the railway station. "Two trains had left the Raichur railway station – one for Bengaluru and the other for Chennai. Since he didn't have money, we expected him to get down at Mantralayam in Andhra Pradesh to eat charity food at the Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt. But CCTV footage showed that he had not got down there," the officer says.

The accused then made a second call, from Chennai, for money to another number that was under surveillance. "We caught him at a beach in Chennai on Sunday (March 9)," the officer says.

Tayamma, Sharanabasavaraj's mother, who works as a labourer in Gangavathi, says, "My son worked as a construction labourer in Bengaluru and returned home a week ago. He has spoiled his life because of being in bad company. Mallesh would steal material from construction sites and was known to harass women. I had told my son not to associate with him, but he didn't listen."

> Mallesh used to steal material from construction sites and was known to harass women. I had advised my son not to associate with him, but he didn't listen to me.
>
> **TAYAMMA**
> Mother of Sharanabasavaraj, one of the accused

'A safe destination'

According to C. Baranidharan, Deputy Superintending Archaeological Engineer, Hampi Circle, in 2024-25 (up to December), 5.8 lakh Indian tourists and 9,357 foreign tourists visited Hampi. Ravichandra says most of the foreign tourists are from Israel and Europe.

A majority of the local people around Hampi depend on tourism for their livelihood. While many of them work as taxi drivers, auto drivers, and tourist guides, others work in the hospitality industry and businesses that serve tourists.

"Many of the homestays are unregistered and operate without permission from the authorities," says Shashikanth S. Shembelli, a local journalist. According to Nagaraj, Assistant Director of Tourism, Koppal, no homestay is registered with the department in the Anegundi area.

In 2020, the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority with the help of the local administration demolished all the illegal resorts on the Virupapura Gaddi islet, created by the Tungabhadra river. There had been representations by the local communities about alcohol and drug abuse, followed by a Supreme Court order directing that the illegal structures be removed.

Legally operating resorts continued to organise bonfire nights. Though Hampi does not have a bustling nightlife, the resorts on the other side of the river do. Many resorts advertise riverside dining, stargazing, and night walks for tourists.

"However, going to remote areas late at night for stargazing is not common," says Vijaykumar, a resident of Sanapura. "This is not because of the fear of criminals; this area has not seen a crime like this in at least the past 25 years. It is because people fear encountering wild animals, especially leopards and bears." He adds that the bund road is mostly deserted.

A visibly shaken Karthika says, "It was not that deserted as some people claim. There was a car and a bike parked on the side of the road when we went there. Why shouldn't I take my guests there to enjoy nature at night?"

Sherwin Rebello, a travel blogger, writes in a post titled 'How safe is Hampi for female solo backpackers in 2024?': "It's important to remember that Hampi is an extremely safe place to go backpacking... Violent crime is rare, and most travellers report feeling safe during their visit."

A matter of restoring trust

Every year, Indian and foreign tourists come together to celebrate Holi in Hampi, against the backdrop of the ruins and the rocky landscape.

However, this year, the mood is sombre. Rajkumar, the owner of a resort, says, "I have a resort with 10 rooms. All of them were full during Holi last year, but they are vacant this year. We see only a few tourists visiting us for lunch."

Ramu, a shopkeeper in Sanapura, says, "If Hampi receives a substantial number of tourists, we can get some income and lead a decent life. The incident has shaken us all and also affected our business." While his turnover was around ₹8,000 a day during the previous Holi seasons, it has fallen to about ₹3,000 a day this year, he says.

However, Nihil Das, Superintending Archaeologist of the Hampi Circle, says he cannot confirm the drastic reduction in footfall at Hampi after the incident. "One way to estimate the number of tourists visiting ASI-protected sites is to check the number of entry tickets sold. Most foreign tourists book their tickets for the monuments online. We don't know whether or not they have visited the monuments after the incident," Das says.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said after the incident that his government would take measures to prevent such incidents from recurring. Culture Minister and Koppal district in-charge, Shivaraj Tangadagi, advised people not to go to remote areas without proper precautions.

Soon after, the State Home Department issued guidelines to be followed by homestay and resort owners for the safety of tourists. It has made it mandatory for them to get permission from the police or the Forest Department before taking tourists to deserted spots or forest areas. If they fail to do this, they will be held "responsible for any mishap that occurs...and subjected to legal action...," say the guidelines. The document has been circulated to all the districts of Karnataka.

Homestay owners are unhappy about this. "We already follow the regulations and submit C-Forms (to register the arrival of foreign tourists) to the police. But we can't take responsibility when tourists go in local vehicles or on their own. These guidelines might be misused even by officials in case something goes wrong," says N.R. Thejaswi, a homestay owner and president of the Chikkamagaluru Homestay Association.

Foreign tourists in Hampi are shocked by the incident, but some have nevertheless made the trip to the tourist site. Chloe, a tourist from France who is in Hampi with her friend, says, "Such incidents happen rarely and can occur anywhere in the world, including France."

Amit, a tourist from Israel, says, "I learnt about the incident two days ago when I was in Gokarna (a coastal town in Karnataka). I thought the local police would have tightened security, so I decided to come here."

Bibhas' cousin, Phiroz Kumar Pradhan, cannot understand how anyone can blame the tourists. "What more precautions could Bibhas have taken? Law and order should not be at the hands of hooligans. While the culprits must be held accountable, it is the government's responsibility to restore tourists' trust," he says.

kumar.bh@thehindu.co.in

**Names of the women have been changed to protect their identity*

The story includes inputs from Satyasundar Barik from Odisha

From Page One

India hits out at Pakistan, denies role in train attack

However, Pakistani media had earlier cited sources to report that at least four members of the Frontier Corps died while clearing the rebel fighters from the ambushed train.

BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch disputed Mr. Chaudhry's remarks about the operation, terming it an "attempt to cover up lies and defeat" in an email to *The Hindu*. On March 11, Mr. Baloch had announced the dramatic escalation in the group's activities in a statement, claiming that nearly 182 passengers were taken hostage after the Jaffar Express was forced to stop. The BLA alleged that at least 100 of the passengers were "active-duty personnel from the Pakistan military, police, Anti-Terrorism Force (AtF), and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)." Mr. Baloch had added: "During the operation, BLA fighters have released women, children, and Baloch passengers, ensuring that all remaining hostages are serving personnel of the occupying forces."

The BLA was declared a terrorist organisation by the United States during the first presidency of Donald Trump on July 2, 2019.

Insurgency in Balochistan – Pakistan's largest province, which has rich petroleum and natural gas resources – is an old problem that goes back to the country's inception. The Baloch have traditionally resisted the State, with various clans and tribes joining hands, including the Marris, Bugtis and Bizenjos. The last big crackdown against the traditional Baloch resistance came in 2006, in the last days of President Pervez Musharraf's rule, when Nawab Akbar Bugti and his followers were killed in a helicopter gunship attack.

Samagra Shiksha: T.N. covers Centre's share

People watching the live telecast of Tamil Nadu budget session at Koyambedu on Friday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

He also said a total of ₹46,767 crore has been allocated for the School Education Department in 2025-26. The budgetary allocation for the department in 2024-25 was ₹44,042 crore.

The Finance Minister also said under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, the State government has been successfully implementing various student welfare schemes for the past seven years, including the 'Ennum Ezhuthum Thittam' to ensure foundational literacy, special education for children with disabilities, transport allowances for students from remote areas, guidance for higher education to shape the future of students, and art festivals to nurture unique talents.

He also recalled poet Bharathidasan's words and said: *'Thamizharukku thondu seiyum thamizhanukku thadai seiyum nedunkundrum thoolaai pogum'*, meaning 'any opposition to a Tamil who is working for the betterment of the Tamil community will eventually crumble and fail, even if it is a mighty mountain".

Meanwhile, in a post on X, Tamil Nadu School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi thanked the Chief Minister and Finance Minister for firmly announcing that "whatever obstacle comes, we won't accept Hindi imposition" and allocating funds from the State's exchequer to compensate for funds due from the Centre to the State under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

Man attacks 5 people with iron rod in Golden Temple

Press Trust of India
AMRITSAR

A man wielding an iron rod went on an indiscriminate rampage on Friday here at the Golden Temple, injuring two 'sewadars' (volunteer) and three devotees, the police said.

The man was seen in the Guru Ramdas Niwas, also called Guru Ramdas Sarai, of the Golden Temple.

According to Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) secretary Partap Singh, the man turned violent when asked what he was doing on the premises and attacked the SGPC employees and the others.

The police said the man hailed from Haryana and was handed over to them by the SGPC after the incident. The reason behind the attack is under investigation.

The three devotees who were injured had come to the temple from Mohali, Bathinda and Patiala, while the other two were 'sewadars' of Sri Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple), Mr. Singh said.

A 'sewadar' and a devotee from Bathinda suffered severe head injuries. The injured were rushed to Sri Guru Ramdas Hospital at Vallah in a critical condition. Mr. Singh said the attacker and an accomplice of his were apprehended and handed over to the police.

None of 1,275 gazetted posts filled in Ladakh in nearly six years: govt.

A staff selection board has been formed in the Union Territory; the administration is focused on improving road and telecom connectivity, Union Home Ministry tells parliamentary panel

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

None of the 1,275 gazetted posts in Ladakh have been filled since the region became a Centrally administered territory in 2019, according to information provided by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to a parliamentary committee.

"Recruitment Rules for 75 categories of gazetted posts, aggregating a total of 1,142 posts have been framed," the Ministry informed the department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Jobs and lack of employment opportunities were at the heart of protests witnessed by the Union Territory in the past five years. Ladakh, comprising the Kargil and Leh divisions, had erupted in protests on several occasions since 2019 after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution was revoked and the region turned into a Union Territory without a Legislative Assembly.

After talks between civil society leaders and the government broke down in March 2024, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk sat on an indefinite fast in Delhi in October the same year, to draw the government's attention to their demands. The Ministry then agreed to resume talks.

Call to attention: A demonstration seeking Statehood and job security being held in Leh in January.

The Ministry also informed the committee that there were 3,596 vacancies in non-gazetted posts in various departments and recruitment to 3,172 posts were done through agencies such as the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Autonomous Hill Development Subordinate Services Recruitment Board, Leh and Kargil, and the Ladakh Police Board. A staff selection board named the "Ladakh Subordinate Service Staff Selection Board" had been set up, it added.

Focus on connectivity

During the meeting of the committee held on February 21, the administration of Ladakh informed that it was focusing on road and telecom connectivity. "Total road length is around 6,700 km. Since the creation of UT of Ladakh efforts are being made to focus on roads and bridges. Of the total 134 roads and 32 bridges, 40 have been completed," the committee was informed.

The committee led by the Bharatiya Janata Party's Radha Mohan Das Agarwal tabled the 252nd report on Demand For Grants (2025-2026) for the Ministry in the Rajya Sabha on March 10.

The committee observed that the fund allocations for Ladakh were reduced for the financial year 2025-26 to ₹4,692.15 crore as compared to ₹5,958 crore in 2024-25. "The Committee feels that the reduction in budgetary allocation can hamper the ongoing works and schemes of the Union Territory. The Committee recommends that MHA may need to pursue the additional fund requirement with the Ministry of Finance at RE (Revised Estimate) stage if the UT of Ladakh seeks additional funds at a later stage," said the report.

The committee was informed that to boost the renewable energy sector in Ladakh, two projects of 25-MW and 12-MW capacity were awarded and work would start this month. As many as 1,533 government buildings were being covered with solar rooftop.

No injury mark on body of Kulgam youth: doctor

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The body of one of the three missing men in south Kashmir's Kulgam "bore no marks of injuries and [the death] could be a case of drowning", according to forensic experts.

The body of Riyaz Ahmad Bajad (25), a resident of Chandian Pajan, Devsar, was recovered on Thursday from Veshow Nallah in the Mah area, officials said. He had been missing since February 13.

According to Azia Manzoor Bhat, Head of Department, Forensic Medicine, Anantnag, the body bore no neck, head or body injuries.

"Prima facie it seems like an ante-mortem drowning. There are features of drowning," Dr. Bhat said, adding that the final report on the cause of death would be ready after the forensic lab and the histopathology report arrived.

The J&K Police is investigating the matter.

The families of two other missing men, Showkat Ahmad Bajard and Mir Ahmad Awan, urged the authorities to intensify search operations. "We appeal to the police and administration that the bodies be returned. We will not raise any hue and cry. All we demand is the return of bodies, if our kin are dead," a victim's uncle said.

Colour play

Shooting squad: Children smeared in colours celebrate Holi at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Friday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Holi celebrations, Friday prayers held peacefully across U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Holi celebrations as well as Friday prayers on the occasion of the second *Jumma* (Friday) of Ramzan passed off peacefully in Uttar Pradesh.

The police had put in place tight police security and elaborate surveillance, through drone and CCTV cameras, to prevent law-and-order issues. In Sambhal, the police conducted a flag march in various locations, including near the Shahi Jama Masjid.

"Everyone cooperated. Along with Holi, *Jumma* namaz was performed peacefully. Both were peaceful. Police personnel were deployed to manage the crowd and maintain peace," said Vandana Mishra, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sambhal.

Security monitored

Uttar Pradesh Director-General of Police Prashant Kumar monitored the security situation from the dedicated control room of the State police headquarters. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath participated in the Holi milan programme organised on the Gorakhnath temple campus in Gorakhpur.

Earlier, in at least five sensitive districts such as Sambhal, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Bijnor and Aligarh, some mosques were covered with tarpaulin sheets to prevent Holi colours from falling on them. Prominent Muslim clerics had also revised the timings for Friday prayers.

I will not apologise for remarks against RSS, says Tushar Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, said on Friday that he "will not apologise" for terming the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) "a cancer to the soul of the nation".

He made the remark at an event in Kerala on Wednesday. Later, he was heckled by some RSS and BJP activists, who also raised slogans against him, on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram. The police have filed a case against five RSS and BJP workers.

Tushar Gandhi

"They wanted me to apologise for what I said. They wanted me to retract my statement. I do not do that. Once I say it, I do not believe in retracting it or even apologising for making the statement," Mr. Tushar said at a programme held at Union Christian College at Aluva. He was on the campus to commemorate the centenary celebrations of the Mahatma's visit to the institution on March 18, 1925, after participating in the Vaikom Satyagraha.

Stating that the incident had "strengthened his resolve to continue exposing the traitors", Mr. Tushar said it was shocking that such an incident was happening in Kerala, where "the rights of people are still protected and it is in the culture of Malayalis to respect the Opposition".

"We have lived side by side with the Opposition. We never tried to silence each other. We have to protect the soul of Kerala and the spirit of the Malayalis. It is very essential that these kind of poisonous people are pushed out of Kerala," he said. It was a fight that was more essential than the freedom fight. "We have a common enemy now," he said.

Kerala's Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan also attended the programme.

BJP seeks his arrest

BJP leader and former Union Minister of State V. Muraleedharan sought Mr. Tushar's arrest for his statements and accused him of trying to "monetise" the Mahatma's name for several years now.

Speaking at a BJP protest, he said that just because Mr. Tushar had the "Gandhi name", it did not entitle him to the same respect reserved for the Father of the Nation. The BJP leader also criticised the Pinarayi government for booking five RSS and BJP workers.

(With PTI inputs)

Days after ban on his party, Mirwaiz 'not allowed' to lead Friday prayers

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Hurriyat chairman and Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was allegedly denied permission to lead Friday prayers at Srinagar's historic Jama Masjid, days after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) banned the political party Awami Action Committee (AAC) headed by Mr. Farooq.

Several local leaders condemned the move. A spokesman of Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid, the caretaker body of the mosque, said the Mirwaiz was placed under house arrest on Friday morning and "prevented from delivering sermons and offering congregational prayers".

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

Terming the move as "arbitrary and unjustified", the spokesman said, "At a time when the holy month of Ramzan is going on, Jama Masjid is the central place of worship where thousands gather for Friday prayers. Barring Mr. Farooq from fulfilling his religious duties and preventing the faithful from benefiting from his sermons deeply hurts the religious sentiments of the people."

The Auqaf demanded immediate release of Mr. Farooq and "freedom to carry on with his religious obligations". Heads of several mosques, shrines, and *imambaras* "strongly condemned the house arrest of the Mirwaiz".

'Undue interference'

Condemning the restriction imposed on Mr. Farooq, Shia cleric Masroor Ansari said, "The arbitrary and unjustified action of authorities to place the Mirwaiz under house arrest and prevent him from performing his religious duties during the holy month of Ramadan is an undue interference in the religious sphere of the people."

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti also expressed her resentment. "After the unjust arbitrary ban against AAC and J&K Ittehadul Muslimeen (JKIM), Mirwaiz *sahab* has been placed under house arrest on the second Friday of Ramzan, a day of immense significance. The NC [National Conference] government promotes vulgar fashion shows during Ramzan but loses its voice when it comes to religious heads dispensing their duties," Ms. Mufti said.

On March 11 this year, the MHA banned Mr. Farooq's AAC and Mr. Ansari's JKIM for being "unlawful organisations".

Hike MGNREGS wages to match price rise: parliamentary panel

Govt. is yet to take action despite multiple recommendations, says committee headed by Cong. MP; it seeks uniform wage rates across the country and criticises Centre for the delay in release of pending wages to States, including West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

A parliamentary committee has strongly argued for the revision of wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in view of the rising cost of living.

In its report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, headed by Congress MP Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, also sought uniform wage rates across the country.

Currently, the per day wages vary from ₹234 in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh to ₹374 in Haryana and Sikkim. The panel expressed disappointment that despite its multiple recommendations on this matter over the years, the government had not implemented any significant changes.

The wages currently are linked to the Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers. "The committee believes that this index does not fully capture the real impact of inflation, and therefore, the method of wage calculation must be reviewed and updated on a priority basis to reflect the actual economic conditions at the ground level," it said.

Suspension of funds has resulted in severe consequences in West Bengal, including an increase in distress migration. DEBASISH BHADURI

The panel urged the government to implement a "uniform wage rate" across all States and Union Territories, since the scheme is primarily funded by the Union government. "This would help ensure fairness and consistency in wage payments under the scheme," said the panel, while reviewing the budgetary allocation of the Department of Rural Development.

Payments delayed

The panel also criticised the government for the delay in disbursement of wages to the States. As per the report, till February 15, the total pending liabilities stood at ₹23,446.27 crore, including ₹12,219.18 crore in wage dues.

The panel report pointed out that one-fourth of the allocated funds (₹86,000 crore) will go in clearing the last financial year's dues. "Consequently, the actual working budget for the current financial year is reduced to ₹62,553.73 crore, significantly limiting the scheme's capacity to function effectively and meet its primary objective of preventing rural distress and ensuring livelihood security," the report said.

West Bengal's case

The report mentioned the case of West Bengal, which has not been receiving funds for MGNREGS activities since March 2022. The Centre stopped the funds to the State over allegations of corruption in the implementation of the scheme. "The continued suspension of funds has resulted in severe consequences, including a sharp increase in distress migration and disruptions in rural development initiatives. This has had a significant adverse impact on the livelihoods of rural populations, exacerbating economic hardships in the State. The committee strongly recommends that West Bengal receive its rightful dues for all the eligible years, except for the year currently under dispute in court."

Strained ties

The Centre froze the funding after invoking Section 27 of the MGNREGA, 2005, which allows for stoppage of funds for violation of rules in implementation of the scheme. This has strained the Centre-State ties with the Trinamool Congress holding protests both in Delhi and in West Bengal. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written several letters to the Centre over the issue of the release of funds and announced a separate scheme – Karmashree – to provide jobs to the rural population in the State.

House Democrats press Rubio for details of 'voter turnout' funds to India

Sriram Lakshman

Two Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) have written to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio seeking details of the alleged $21 million spent by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on "voter turnout" in India.

They also ask for details on how the Department for Government Efficiency (DOGE) cancelled the programme and communicated the cancellation to stakeholders.

The letter, dated March 13, 2025, refers to the "$21 million for voter turnout in India" – an alleged programme cancelled by DOGE, led by billionaire and Trump administration adviser Elon Musk.

U.S. President Donald Trump had repeatedly cited the alleged programme as an example of wasteful foreign assistance.

Mr. Trump's claims had led to an uproar in Parliament with the BJP and the Congress trading charges.

The committee has oversight over the U.S. State Department and the authors of the letter say they had written to Mr. Rubio three times in February seeking details of the funding, but had not received a reply. The letter is signed by HFAC's Ranking Member (i.e., a Democrat) Gregory Meeks and the ranking member of its South and Central Asia subcommittee, Sydney Kamlager-Dove.

"The President's [Mr. Trump's] statements, including his unsubstantiated claim that the Biden Administration used these funds to 'get somebody else elected' ignited a political firestorm in India," the U.S. lawmakers say in their letter.

Under pressure: The lawmakers asked Marco Rubio for a response to their letter by March 21. REUTERS

Citing examples such as the USAID had provided for the setting up of IIT-Kanpur, the letter says Mr. Trump's "inflammatory statements" had created suspicion around the development agency's work in India and jeopardised a long-lasting partnership.

"India is a key strategic partner and sustaining this relationship requires skilled diplomacy," it says.

The lawmakers ask Mr. Rubio for a response to their letter by March 21, 2025. *The Hindu* has reached out to the State Department for a comment.

BTC chief calls for more funding for tribal languages

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Tribal languages need more attention and funding to develop as a medium of instruction from schools to universities, Assam's autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) chief Pramod Boro said on Friday.

The funds which tribal communities receive from the government for their development, including for education in their mother tongues, are not adequate, Mr. Boro said. He was addressing a four-day annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU).

"The Right to Education has a provision for imparting education in the mother tongue. Tribal languages are becoming a medium of instruction in educational institutions, but they need more attention for development," he said.

Error-prone textbooks

"Bodos have struggled for education in the mother tongue for a long time. Sadly, the textbooks in Bodo and other tribal languages continue to be inadequate and error-prone. We would like these to be rectified before the commencement of the new academic session," Mr. Boro said.

Assam's Education Minister Ranoj Pegu, who attended the conference as a special guest, acknowledged the ABSU's role in shaping the State's educational landscape. "A collective effort toward a vibrant Bodo Territorial Region and Viksit Bharat is needed at the crossroads of development, the New Education Policy, and technological transformation. It is vital to align education with industry demands as the emphasis today is on skill development, entrepreneurship, and career independence," he said.

ABSU's current president Dipen Boro also underscored the need for continuous investment in education and leadership growth.

On the draw

BJP rule in Maharashtra is worse than Aurangzeb's era: Sanjay Raut

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut took a potshot at the BJP-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra on Friday, unfavourably comparing its regime with the rule of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

"It's been 400 years since Aurangzeb was buried. Are you saying that the farmers' suicides, unemployment, and atrocities against women in the State are because of Augangzeb? All of these are current issues and are happening under the BJP government," Mr. Raut said. "The BJP government's regime has been worse than the era of Aurangzeb rule," he added.

He also raised concerns about communal harmony in the State. "Every day we have been hearing of discrimination against Muslims. Why is this government interfering so much in people's lives?" he said.

Mr. Raut was speaking about Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's recent assertion that everyone believes Aurangzeb's tomb in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar should be removed. However, it must be done under legal purview, as the previous Congress government had placed the site under the Archaeological Survey of India, he had added.

Jayant Patil will leave NCP(SP) soon to join hands with Ajit, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Minister Sanjay Shirsat on Thursday claimed that Jayant Patil, a senior leader of the Nationalist Congress Party (SP), will soon "cause an earthquake in his party" by joining the NCP led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Speaking to journalists, Mr. Shirsat said, "I have said this in the past and I am saying again that Jayant Patil has made up his mind to leave the NCP(SP) and join the Ajit Pawar-led NCP. He has been having these thoughts for a long time and when the day of his exit arrives, there will be an earthquake in the party."

On edge: NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar with Jayant Patil. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Patil is considered to be close to NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar. Mr. Patil's recent statement, when he said there was nothing certain about him, had sparked a round of speculation of his exit from the NCP(SP).

Baramati MP and NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule called Mr. Shirsat's claims a flattering compliment and said, "Despite having huge organisational strength, they [Ajit Pawar's NCP] need Jayant Patil."

NCP leader and Minister Hasan Mushrif said, "It is quite clear that Jayant Patil has been upset with the NCP(SP) and he is aware that it is not possible to stay in the NCP(SP) and survive in politics for the next five years."

Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar said it is evident that Mr. Patil, who heads the State unit of the NCP(SP), has been upset for the past few days.

"We can only guess what he wants to say. I am not sure of the motive behind his statement. He is a senior politician and has held responsible positions," he said.

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

Tender Notice
NIT No: CMRL/SIG&PSD/PSD-01/2025
e-procurement tender
National Competitive Bidding

CMRL invites digitally signed tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the works as detailed below:

Providing Maintenance Services for Platform Screen Doors Systems at Stations and other related premises of CMRL-Corridor 1 & Corridor 2

Bid Submission End Date: 16/04/2025 up to 15:00 hrs
Bid Opening Date: 17/04/2025 at 15:00 hrs

For further details, please visit e-procurement website:
http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
www.chennaimetrorail.org

DIPR/1021/Tender/2025 — **Advisor (S&T)**

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Maintenance of all garden and lawn and plantation area for a period of One year (2024-25) in VOCPA	1,43,41,648/-	2,86,833/-	27.03.2025

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
VOCPA

NIZAM'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
(A UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED UNDER STATE ACT)
Ph.No:- 040-23489054/23489000, Panjagutta, Hyderabad - 500082, www.nims.edu.in
Tender Notice
Rc.No.Plng II/20/2024/TCU/Newspapers — Dt. 13.03.2025
Bids are invited for the following Rate Contract tender notification at NIMS, Hyderabad through NIMS Website https://nims.edu.in or www.nims.edu.in
RATE CONTRACT FOR HOSPITAL ITEMS - 2025 to 27
Bidders are requested to visit the above website for complete tender specifications, amendments, corrigendum, pre-qualification criteria, due dates, regular updates and participation.
DIPR R.O.No. 1144-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Dated: 13.03.2025 — Sd/- Director

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking),Sankaramangalam,Kollam 691583
Phone : 0476-2651215 to 217, E-Mail :md@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No	Tender Id	Items
1	2025_KMML_745715_1	For the supply of Personal computer with all accessories
2	2025_KMML_745690_1	For the supply of Refrigerant Gas Freon 22 in Cylinder of 61kg-3202 kg
3	2025_KMML_749870_1	For the procurement of Current Transformer
4	2025_KMML_744240_1	For supply of 3216 MT of Sodium Silicate
5	2025_KMML_748362_1	For the procurement of 3Ton Electric Forklift

Chavara 14.03.2025 — Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

Sl. No.	Name of Work	E-Tender ID	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Hiring of Consultancy Services for carrying out Environmental and Social Studies of the proposed SWM Project under CITIIS 2.0 for Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited	2025_SCTLT_746316_1	19-Mar-2025 03:00 PM

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail.
All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Tender Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in
(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : KWA/SP - 07/2024 - 25/INS(EMP), RENEWAL OF TAILOR MADE GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY FOR KERALA WATER AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2025 - 26, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 27-03-2025, 03:00 pm, **Phone :** 8593880849
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Chief Engineer (HRD&GI.)
KWA-JB-GL-6-1227-2024-25 — Jalabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-Tender is invited for 2nd call for print and supply of 2 Volumes of Siva Maha Puranam to TTD Press. For Tender Notice & details, please see the NIT.Roc.No. TTD-44021(36)/3/2023-PRESS SEC-TTD. Please log on the website **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in.**
For further details contact: 0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292.
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.367) Date:14-03-2025 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED (TGSPDCL) | **NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED (TGNPDCL)**
e-Procurement RFP NOTICE
Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd. (TGSPDCL) on behalf of both **TGDISCOMs (TGSPDCL & TGNPDCL),** invites the Technical & Financial Bids from eligible and experienced consultancy firms for appointment of Consultant for Strategy Support for Long Term Sustainability of TGDISCOMs on retainership basis for a period of 12 months from the date of entering into the agreement.

RFP Notice No.	CE(RAC)
Tender Id No. in https://tender.telangana.gov.in	01/2024-25

For details regarding RFP notification, specifications please visit **www.tgsouthernpower.org. https://www.tgnpdcl.com** and **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**
Sd/- CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR,
Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd.
DIPR R.O.No. 1146-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dated: 13-03-2025

HAJ COMMITTEE OF INDIA
(Statutory Body Constituted under the Act of Parliament No. 35 of 2002)
Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India
Haj House, 7-A, M.R.A. Marg (Palton Road), Mumbai – 400 001
Estt- 000900047 /1/2025-HCOI — Date : 15.03.2025
ADVERTISEMENT FOR FILLING UP THE POST OF PRIVATE SECRETARY ON DEPUTATION BASIS
Applications are invited for the post of Private Secretary in the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, on a **deputation basis** in **Level-6 of the pay matrix as per the 7th Central Pay Commission**. The post is open to Central Government / State Government employees who meet the prescribed age, qualification, and experience criteria. The detailed recruitment notice is available on the Haj Committee of India website: **https://hajcommittee.gov.in.**
Applications, duly forwarded through the proper channel (with a forwarding letter from the competent authority / cadre controlling authority), must reach the undersigned **within 45 Days from the date of publication of this notice in Employment News**, along with all required documents.
Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Haj Committee of India

INBRIEF

UNITED FORUM OF BANK UNIONS
(AIBEA - AIBOC - NCBE - AIBOA - BEFI - INBEF - INBOC - NOBW - NOBO)
UNION BANK OF INDIA
SECUNDERABAD REGIONAL OFFICE
PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS
11TH MARCH 2025
WE OPPOSE
DISCRIMINATION AMONGST EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS

Bank unions to go ahead with March 24-25 strike as talks fail

The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) on Thursday said its two-day nationwide strike on March 24 and 25 will be observed as scheduled since discussions with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) failed to yield any positive outcome. In the meeting, all UFBU constituents raised issues, including recruitment in all cadres and a five-day workweek. Still, the key issues remained unresolved, National Confederation of Bank Employees General Secretary L. Chandrasekhar said. The UFBU earlier announced the strike to press for these demands which included filling up the workmen and officer director posts in public sector banks. PTI

Gujarat student rams car into two-wheelers; woman killed

A woman was killed and four people sustained injuries when a speeding car driven by a 20-year-old law student crashed into their two-wheelers in Gujarat's Vadodara city in the early hours of Friday, the police said. The accident occurred around 12.30 a.m. near Muktanand crossroads in the Karelibaug area following which the driver, Rakshit Chaurasiya, was arrested, said Deputy Commissioner of Police Panna Momaya. It could be a case of drunk driving as witnesses, who caught Chaurasiya at the scene, told the police that he appeared intoxicated and was screaming "another round, another round" after coming out of the car. PTI

HC strikes down a Section of Goa Town Planning Act

The Goa Bench of Bombay High Court has struck down a Section of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1974, that allowed the creation of zones within zones, holding that it was concerned with private land owners' interests. Three citizen organisations had filed a public interest litigation in the High Court contending that Section 17(2) of the Act was "mutilating" the Regional Plan. Notified in March 2023, the Section was aimed at allowing the authorities to rectify inconsistent or incoherent zoning. The petitioners had argued that the Section was being misused to change the status of large tracts of land for commercial purposes. PTI

Shiv Sena leader shot dead, minor boy injured in Punjab

A Shiv Sena leader was shot dead here late on Thursday night while a boy was also injured in the attack, police said. "The deceased, Mangat Rai alias Manga, was the Moga district president of Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena," a police official said. The incident occurred when Manga (52), who had stepped out of the house to buy groceries, was attacked by three unknown persons at around 10 p.m. The bullet initially missed Manga and hit a 12-year-old boy who was passing through the area, he said. Manga then fled the area on a two-wheeler, but the assailants chased him. The attackers fired at Manga again, this time successfully, and ran away. PTI

Real-money gaming firms flag spike in offshore betting apps

These firms argued that heavy taxation would lead to the proliferation of illegal offshore apps; with the apprehension now materialising, financial strain is leading to industry consolidation

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Indian RMG firms are now increasingly worried by the fast growth of foreign competitors doing business in India. GETTY IMAGES

Real-money gaming (RMG) firms are watching with alarm as illegal offshore gambling sites and apps grow at a rapid rate in India, but have not yet been able to convince the government to reduce taxes on the legal industry as a way to curb illegal players.

Indian RMG firms, which offer games and fantasy sports that allow users to stake money for rewards – with the risk of losses – have largely been given legal status, thanks to successive legal judgments in their favour. Courts have ruled that their activities do not constitute betting and gambling, thus insulating them from State bans.

However, the 28% GST imposed on these firms has increased their costs significantly and given an opening to offshore services with no claim to legality.

The existence of these offshore firms have long been potent fodder in RMG executives' efforts to seek lower taxes from the government. Since these firms operate illegally in India, switching domains and using "mule" bank accounts to stay online and collect payments from players, they do not pay GST at all and cannot be regulated, unlike Indian firms like Dream11 and PokerBaazi.

Swift growth

Even as that argument has been floated as an effort to reduce the domestic industry's tax burden, Indian RMG firms are now increasingly worried by the fast growth of foreign competitors doing business in India.

One industry executive said that offshore apps have been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 30%, similar to the initial days of the legal RMG industry before GST imposition. The legal industry's growth rate has now plateaued to 10% to 15%, the executive said.

A 2024 industry report by a group called the Think Change Forum estimated the cumulative size of the illegal betting firms at ₹8.2 lakh crore, noting that this is growing rapidly.

Authorities have cracked down on some of these, such as the Mahadev app. But those based on foreign shores, such as 1xBet, are harder to crack down on, since they constantly change their banking providers. The argument – that the government is foregoing tax revenues with the proliferation of such betting sites – has so far not convinced policymakers to change tack.

Industry consolidation

In the meantime, the RMG industry is consolidating. Head Digital Works, an RMG firm, acquired the parent company of Adda52, one of India's oldest poker platforms, for ₹491 crore last month. Nazara Technologies, which offers both RMG and video games, has acquired a major stake in Moonshine Technology, which runs PokerBaazi. Another firm, OneVerse, has acquired the platform PokerDangal.

Regulations seem to be in pause mode, with the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023 on standby, as the government is yet to formally recognise any self-regulatory body under the Rules' provisions. The industry has taken a few steps to burnish its own legitimacy in light of this inaction, such as assisting a study that positively assessed the effectiveness of playtime limits, and putting out a code of ethics that reaffirmed RMG firms' existing safeguards.

Centre sanctions 116 new tourist spots across the country

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The *Swadesh Darshan* scheme aims to develop sustainable tourism destinations.

The Centre has sanctioned 116 new tourist destinations across the country under various schemes in partnership with State governments which would be developed at a cost of ₹4,088 crores.

Out of these, 34 have been sanctioned under the *Swadesh Darshan* 2.0 scheme, 42 have been identified under the "Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)", a sub-scheme of *Swadesh Darshan,* and 40 would be developed under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

The *Swadesh Darshan* scheme aims to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations by focusing on theme-based circuits and providing financial assistance to State governments for infrastructure development. The scheme was revamped as *Swadesh Darshan* 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable tourism destinations.

The Ministry has also formulated CBDD as a subscheme under SD2.0 aiming for holistic development of destinations to enhance tourist experience.

The Centre, through the Union Finance Ministry, sanctioned 40 projects in 23 States for ₹3,295.76 crore in 2024-25 under the 'SASCI - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale' scheme with the objective to comprehensively develop iconic tourist centres in the country, branding, and marketing them at global scale, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat informed Parliament earlier this week.

Tribal homestays

The Centre has also approved the initiative to develop tribal homestays under the *Swadesh Darshan* scheme as part of the *Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan*.

Three killed in fire at 12-storey residential building in Rajkot

Press Trust of India
RAJKOT

The officials said that about 40 residents stuck in the tower were rescued.

Three persons were killed and one was injured after a massive fire broke out in a 12-storey residential building in Gujarat's Rajkot city on Friday morning, officials said. About 40 residents stuck in the tower located in the 150 feet ring road area were rescued, they said.

"The fire broke out in a flat on the sixth floor of Atlantis Apartment around 9.30 a.m. It was caused due to a short circuit. Three persons have lost their lives in the fire while one injured person has been hospitalised," said Assistant Commissioner of Police B. J. Chaudhary. The fire was brought under control around noon, said the official.

Two of the three deceased victims have been identified as Kalpesh Leuva and Mayur Leuva. Two of the victims were outsiders and had come to the building for some work, the official said.

"We have rescued nearly 40 persons stranded on upper floors due to thick smoke. Of these, five were brought down using the hydraulic crane of the fire brigade. Further investigation is on," said the official.

Aditya-L1 mission: scientists observe a flareless coronal mass ejection

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have reported observations of a flareless coronal mass ejection (CME) from the solar atmosphere with the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) instrument onboard Aditya-L1 mission.

The Aditya-L1 mission is India's first scientific mission dedicated to studying the sun and the VELC payload was developed by the Bengaluru-based IIA.

Scientists associated with the IIA said that using the VELC payload, it was possible to observe the corona not only closer to where its base is located in the solar atmosphere, but also obtain data at shorter time intervals compared with other existing coronagraphs in orbit.

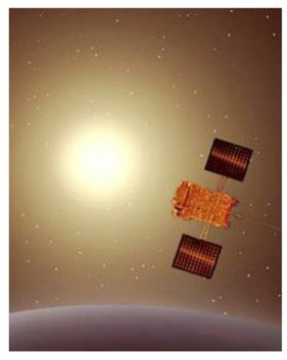
The VELC team observed the onset of a CME that erupted from the sun on July 5, 2024, with no association to any flare.

Magnetic instability

They said that the data obtained provide valuable clues to understand and differentiate the magnetic instabilities on the sun that causes the flares and the CMEs.

The results of the study will be appearing soon in the *Astrophysical Journal*, an international peer-reviewed scientific journal.

"Observation of CMEs as and when they originate on the sun and understanding their association with flares is one of the major science goals for VELC, and we are happy that the instrument is doing that," said R. Ramesh, senior professor at the IIA and the principal investigator for the VELC.


The Aditya-L1 mission is India's first scientific mission dedicated to studying the sun.

Prof. Ramesh added that with the sun approaching the maximum phase of the current solar cycle 25, the CMEs are expected to occur frequently.

Closer monitoring

"Hence, uninterrupted monitoring of the sun with VELC for CMEs is expected to provide valuable data to the Indian and international scientific community. The unique design of VELC helps to observe the CMEs close to the limb of the solar surface, and their onset time. These advantages facilitate better investigation of the association between CMEs and flares near the solar limb," Prof. Ramesh added.

Flares and CMEs are explosive events in the sun. They are due to magnetic reconnection during which magnetic field lines rearrange.

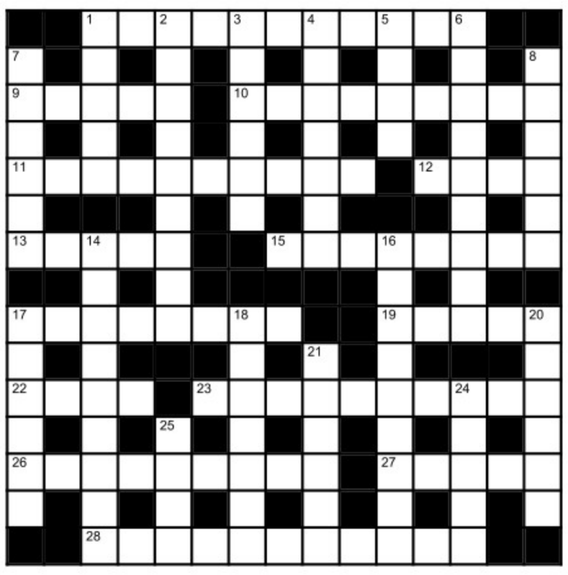
During a flare, energy is released primarily as electromagnetic radiation from the heated plasma. Compared with flares, the CMEs are massive eruptions of plasma and magnetic field weighing about trillion kilograms that race outwards from the sun through the interplanetary space at speeds up to 3,000 kilometres per second. The association between flares and CMEs is ambiguous till date.

TH CROSSWORD + 14433

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 One of our neighbours, perhaps, banished gal wrongly (11)
9 It's dark near model (5)
10 Girl/boy ratio computed for old fighter (9)
11 Party leader is followed by imitators going around displaying devotion to country (10)
12 If mentioned once, fairy-like creature; if mentioned twice, chilli (4)
13 Perhaps, Vladimir's computing to some extent (5)
15 Purposely damage positioning device attached to shell before time (8)
17 Grouse chopped up by setter is gory (8)
19 One thousand with Henry aboard ship are followers of Guru Nanak (5)
22 Policeman with Yankee ape (4)
23 "Shades", crooned maidens (10)
26 Government order from one in military stores (9)
27 Magical creature that is following general (5)
28 Perhaps, bear getting time wrong with optics lab device (11)

Down

1 Intolerant person's large operation theatre (5)
2 Beneficent stuff from nitre compound in nuts (9)
3 For example, consumed by deceased representative (6)
4 See a dad swimming in extremely saline water body (4,3)
5 Jump over rope and miss (4)
6 Where to develop film? Having no information? (2,3,4)
7 Quickly take pans? (4,2)
8 Rubs excitedly around one end of eye resulting in injury (6)
14 "Journalist is after President having direction" is falsified (7,2)
16 Fierce attack in Boston slaughterhouse (9)
17 Goes wrongly around Charlie and King to get cold-blooded creatures (6)
18 Medical officer at emergency room carrying container for grieving person (7)
20 Relative one may find in a convent (6)
21 Shining silver male displaced (6)
24 Gentleman in Spain could be Norse (5)
25 Organic chemistry group Elon synthesized (4)

SUDOKU

	8		2					
6		3			9			
5				1	8			
2				6			5	9
7		5				8		2
8	9			4				7
			7	2				8
			9			5		3
					5		1	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6459 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

W	N	S	G	O	B	R		
L	A	K	E	P	A	N	T	S
O	N	U	S	L	R	A	O	C
T	H	S	L	I	V	E	R	C
O	U	N	T	E	R	S	E	T
C	L	L	B	A	R	G	R	A
P	H	A	V	E	R	S	E	P
A	I	T	A	P	O	S	T	L
E	R	E	T	I	N	A	L	O
T	N	R	P	E	R	S	I	A
A	P	E	R	T	U	R	E	I
T	R	A	E	S	H	A	N	G
H	A	I	S	T	R	E	A	M
A	G	E	F	T	V	L	U	R
G	E	R	I	F	L	E	A	R
K	S	P	R	S	S	R	L	A

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	8	6	4	3	1	2	7
3	2	4	1	5	7	8	9	6
7	6	1	9	2	8	5	3	4
9	3	7	2	8	1	6	4	5
4	8	5	3	9	6	7	1	2
2	1	6	4	7	5	9	8	3
8	4	2	7	6	9	3	5	1
6	5	3	8	1	2	4	7	9
1	7	9	5	3	4	2	6	8

FAITH

Sabari's pure devotion

People may feel elated when they do everything, forgetting that it is not possible without God's blessings. The soul residing in a person is responsible for various thoughts, but it is not the authority for execution. Lord Parameswara says in "Rudra Geetha" that people are at the peak of ignorance (*ajnana*). Sometimes, we boast about whatever little we do, but God does everything without revelation.

Sri Kesava Vajapeya Swamy said in a discourse that people should submit everything to God. Lord Krishna tells Arjuna, "Whatever you do, you eat, you offer, you give away, and whatsoever austerity you practise, do that as an offering to Me" (Chapter 9 – verse 27.) He is Supreme, He is the witness to all our actions, He is the Lord. He will always think of only good for us without expecting anything in return. Parents groom their children, sacrificing themselves. The Supreme Being, the father of the universe, stands to protect all.

Gold ornaments cannot be made of brass. Ahimsa is the basis of Sattva guna, the root cause of Bhakti's development. Otherwise, Bhakti cannot be practised.

Sabari, a pious and noble woman, approached sage Mathanga to show her a good path. The sage blessed her and asked her to chant "Rama Nama". Usually, four types of people worship God: the distressed, the seekers of knowledge, the wealth-seekers, and the men of knowledge, but Sabari worshipped without anticipating anything in return. Sabari waited about 13 years chanting "Rama Nama" for Sri Rama's arrival. Finally, she got His glimpse and attained Moksha.

INBRIEF

Wipro rejigs global business lines to boost capabilities

Wipro Ltd., a technology services and consulting company, on Friday announced a rejig within its global business lines (GBLs) with effect from April 1. Clients were increasingly seeking integrated, outcome-driven solutions that enhance agility and innovation and to better meet these needs, Wipro would realign its global business lines, it said in a statement. The move was aimed at deepening alignment to clients' evolving business needs, it said.

TVSM, PETRONAS boost motorsport partnership

TVS Motor Company strengthened partnership with PETRONAS Lubricants International, reaffirming the shared commitment of both firms to promote motorsports in the country. As part of the alliance with TVS Motor, PETRONAS Lubricants International will continue to be the title sponsor for TVS Racing, the factory racing team, for the next three years. PETRONAS Lubricants India has been the title sponsor of TVS Racing during the 2022-23 season. PTI

ICAI may review financial statements of IndusInd Bank

Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI may review the financial statements of IndusInd Bank, which is grappling with discrepancies in accounting estimated at ₹2,100 crore. The private sector lender, on March 10, disclosed some discrepancies in its derivatives portfolio, which could have an adverse impact of about 2.35% of the bank's net worth as of December 2024, as per its internal review. Analysts peg the discrepancy at ₹2,100 crore in absolute terms. PTI

Gold hits $3,000/oz, a first in a historic safe-haven rally

Bullion has risen almost 14% so far this year, driven by concerns over impact of Trump's tariffs and stock sell-off though it is traditionally viewed as a safe store of value during geopolitical turmoil

Reuters
BENGALURU

Code red: Gold could see a significant correction when a resolution to trade issues appears and asset markets recover. REUTERS

Gold broke through the key $3,000 barrier on Friday for the first time as investors piled on to a historic rally in the safe haven asset to seek cover from economic uncertainty sparked by U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war.

Spot gold rose 0.1% to $2,991 an ounce at 9:42 am ET after hitting an all-time high of $3,004.86.

U.S. gold futures gained 0.4% to $3,002.30.

Gold's surge past the $3000 milestone was driven by "beleaguered investors seeking the ultimate safe-haven asset given Mr. Trump's tumult on stock markets," said Tai Wong, an independent metals trader.

Traditionally viewed as a safe store of value during geopolitical turmoil, bullion has risen nearly 14% so far this year, driven by concerns over the impact of Mr. Trump's tariffs and a sell-off in stock markets.

Unsettled markets

Mr. Trump's protectionist policies have unsettled global markets, with U.S. stocks witnessing a week-long sell-off, sending the S&P 500 plunging into correction territory, losing $4 trillion.

"Real asset money managers, particularly in the West, needed a strong stock market and economic slowdown scare to return to gold – and that's happening now," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank.

Gold has also been supported by central bank demand, with key buyer China building its bullion reserves for a fourth straight month in February.

"Central banks continue record-level gold acquisitions, seeking to diversify away from an increasingly volatile U.S. dollar," said GoldCore CEO, David Russell.

Expectations of monetary easing by the U.S. Federal Reserve have also helped zero-yield gold. The Fed is expected to keep rates unchanged next week, although traders are betting on cuts to resume in June.

However, gold could see a significant correction, "when a resolution to trade issues appears and asset markets recover." Wong said.

In other metals, silver added 0.3% to $33.9 an ounce, platinum gained 0.3% to $997.00 and palladium firmed 2.1% to $978.18.

Actions by govts, businesses to shape trade resilience for years: UNCTAD

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Global cooperation and balanced policies are critical to preventing economic fragmentation and safeguarding long-term growth amid growing trade uncertainty, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has said.

While China's stimulus and lower inflation in some regions are likely to support trade, protectionism and shifting policies in major economies are key risks, UNCTAD said in an update on global trade covering data through early March. The challenge in 2025 will be to prevent global fragmentation – where nations form isolated trade blocs – while managing policy shifts without undermining long-term growth. Actions taken now by governments and businesses will shape trade resilience for years to come.

Room ACs buck trend as other consumer durables face heat

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

B. Thiagarajan

Room airconditioners are an exception among consumer durables in terms of their robust demand, a top executive of a leading AC manufacturer said.

Compared with FMCG and other consumer durables that have been logging either flat or negative growth rates since last year, room ACs (RAC) have emerged as an exception. RAC sales in March, too, are doing extremely well, Blue Star MD B. Thiagarajan said, attributing many contributing factors.

Consumer finance push

While harsher summer, which boosted sales to an unprecedented level last year, remains the key, other aspects driving the demand are stable product prices as well as improved access to consumer finance. Almost 40% of the total sales is happening via consumer finance, Mr. Thiagarajan said during a recent interaction.

Helping perk up household demand is people getting used to air-conditioned environment everywhere viz. offices, cars, restaurants, metro rail and buses.

Also, people retaining the same smartphone for a longer period or taking time to replace the handsets is leaving more disposable income in their hands, auguring well for RACs.

The Union Budget announcements pertaining to income tax are also bound to contribute to the RAC sales, he said, adding the demand for RACs continued even after last summer, though not at the same rate, into the festival season and New Year.

On the road ahead, he said Bluestar grew better than the industry last year and is well positioned to meet the rising demand as it has completed a capacity expansion programme at its plant in Sri City.

Ups capacity

In FY25, the capacity at the facility in Andhra Pradesh was 6.5 lakh units, which since has been raised to 8.5 lakh. In FY27, this will move up to 12 lakh at an estimated cost of ₹150 crore.

The firm has an additional 40 acre (in Sri City II) which it may consider for setting up one more plant beyond FY28. From FY27, the existing facility in Sri City will get into commercial refrigeration.

Bluestar, which forayed into the residential ACs in 2011, is on course to end the fiscal with 13.75% market share as against 13.5% in FY24. It is eyeing 14.25% market share in FY26.

SGBs 2016-17 Series IV were issued in 2017.

RBI sets Sovereign Gold Bond redemption at ₹8,624 a unit

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the price for the final redemption of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) due on March 17 would be ₹8,624 per unit of SGB.

Closing price

"This price has been fixed based on the simple average of closing gold price for the week March 10-13, 2025," the banking regulator said.

"The redemption price of SGB shall be based on the simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity of the week (Monday-Friday), preceding the date of redemption, as published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd. (IBJA)," the central bank added.

The SGBs 2016-17 Series IV issued on March 17, 2017 as per the Union Government's Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme are repayable on the expiration of eight years from the date of issue of the gold bonds.

"Accordingly, the final redemption date of the above tranche shall be March 17, 2025," it said.

Vande Bharat sleeper prototype roll-out set for FY2026: Titagarh Dy. MD

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Long journey: About ₹13,400 crore will be invested in maintenance of trains over 35 years, according to the contract. BIJOY GHOSH

A prototype of Vande Bharat (VB) sleeper set will be rolled out in financial year 2025-26, Prithish Chowdhary, deputy MD of Kolkata-based Titagarh Rail Systems told *The Hindu*.

The ₹9,600-crore contract for 80 train sets at a per train cost of ₹120 crore, spanning four years, was awarded to Titagarh and Bhart Heavy Engineering Ltd. (BHEL) consortium. A further ₹13,400 crore would be invested in maintenance of trains over 35 years, as per the contract.

After Titagarh submitted the cabin designs to the Union Ministry of Railways, the Ministry asked the firm to carry out alterations, including addition of a pantry car. There were also ensuing discussions on whether train sets should consist of 16 or 24 coaches.

Another consortium which won a separate deal for delivering the sleeper train sets was the Russian railway firm Transmashholding (TMH) and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL).

With reference to design alterations, Mr. Chowdhary said there were some asks [requests] by the Railways made to TMH and to us. "The ask was to both the awardees not just to one," he clarified.

Adding pantry car

While Railways had asked for the addition of a pantry car, Mr. Chowdhury said, "A new pantry car being added would require changes in engineering... We kept things on hold for a little while until we had clarity on which way to move, because the 16-car train set and a 24 car train set require different engineering. Now, the decision is very clear... to move with the original contract of the 16-car configuration."

He added, "So, things are back on track and the initial designs that we were working on those are now being worked upon further. So, in the next couple of months, the train should go into production."

According to an investor presentation by Titagarh, Railways has a future requirement of almost 3200 VB coaches with a total estimated supply value of ₹72,000 crore.

Mr. Chowdhary said Titagarh stepped in as a local contract manufacturing partner for building coaches for Bangalore Metro in collaboration Chinese state-owned rolling stock manufacturer CRRC Corporation Limited.

"This was a project originally awarded to CRRC, which is the Chinese company but because there were some issues with their contract, they required an Indian partner," Mr. Chowdhary said.

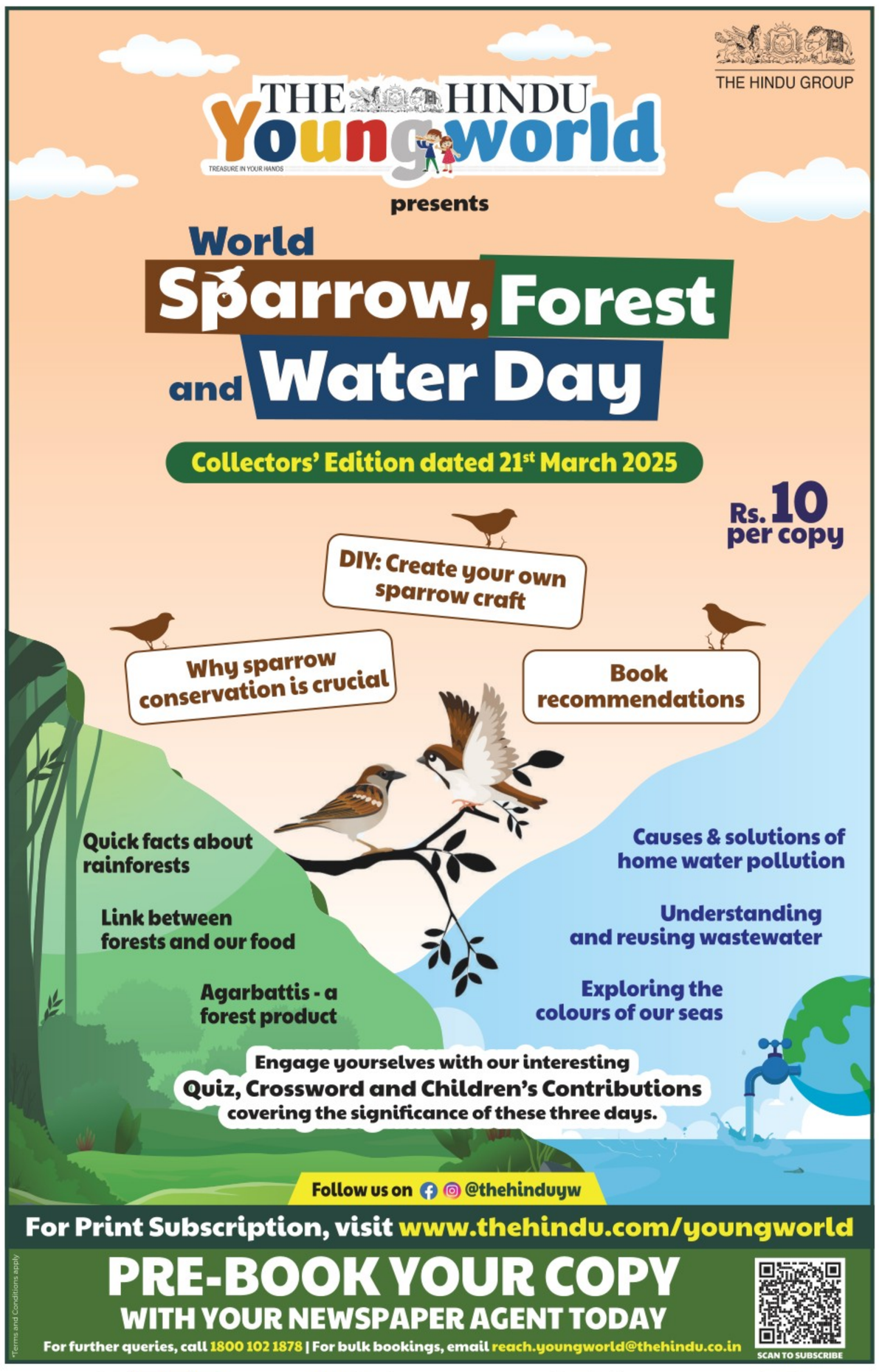
In 2019, CRRC secured a ₹1,578 crore contract to supply 216 coaches to Bangalore Metro Corporation Ltd. and was required to set up a facility in India to make the coaches, which is when the situation got a little difficult between the two countries post crisis in Galwan Valley.

"So, Titagarh is manufacturing about 204 coaches for CRRC in a six-car configuration for a manufacturing cost of ₹1 crore per coach. This comes up to approximately 34 trains, with a supply spread over four years. A prototype has been delivered to Bangalore Metro in January. Production of metro coaches should start by end of March or beginning of April," he said.

"CRRC has shared its manufacturing technology with Titagarh so that coaches are made as per their design, requirements, and standards."

After reaching a capacity of 12,000 freight wagons and almost 840 passenger coaches annually, Titagarh is eyeing two new verticals – signalling and safety systems as well as ship building and maritime systems for expansion.

"We are still detailing on where we are going and how we're going to get there. We will apprise investors once the road map is charted out," he said.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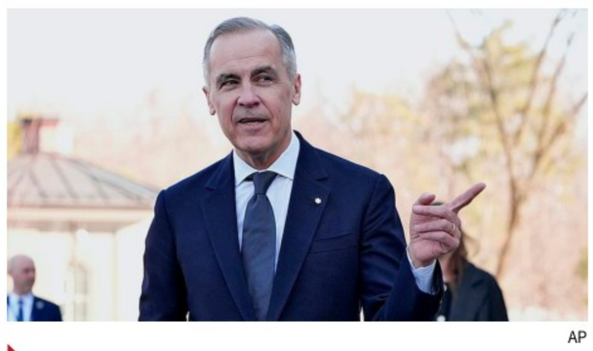
OTTAWA

Mark Carney sworn in as Prime Minister of Canada



AP

Mark Carney, a former central banker, was sworn in as Canada's new Prime Minister on Friday amid escalating tensions with the U.S., including tariffs and annexation threats from President Trump. He replaced Justin Trudeau, who resigned after nearly a decade in office. Mr. Carney had promised a "seamless" transition. AFP

ISTANBUL

'Impossible' to safely meet to decide on dissolution, says PKK

REUTERS

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) stated it is "impossible" for its leadership to convene a congress to dissolve the group, citing daily Turkish bombings. Abdullah Ocalan, its jailed founder, urged disbandment in a historic call. Turkiye continues military operations against the Kurdish militants. AFP

MAJDAL SHAMS

Syrian Druze cross armistice line on Golan Heights for pilgrimage

AP

Dozens of Syrian Druze clerics crossed the armistice line on the Golan Heights into Israel for their first pilgrimage in decades. They are expected to visit the tomb of Nabi Shuaib, in the Galilee — the most important religious site for the Druze. The visit sparked opposition from Syrian Druze. AFP

COX'S BAZAR

UN chief describes aid cuts as 'a crime' during Bangladesh visit

We Want Our Home Back !
We Are Rohingya, Not Stateless!
No More Refugee Life
UN, Ensure Our Safe & Dignified Return!
No More Refugee Life
UN
TAKE US TO OUR HOME BACK !

AFP

UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Friday criticised humanitarian aid cuts by the U.S. and Europe during his visit to Bangladesh, calling them "a crime". He pledged to secure funding for Rohingya refugees facing food ration reductions and urged global action to end their suffering and displacement. AP

Hamas says ready to free Israeli-U.S. hostage and remains of four others

The initial six-week ceasefire, which began on January 19, included the release of 33 hostages in exchange for around 1,800 Palestinian detainees; negotiations for the second phase have begun in Doha, with U.S., Qatar and Egypt mediating the talks

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Hamas on Friday said it was ready to free an Israeli-American hostage and the remains of four other dual nationals, after the Palestinian militants and Israel gathered for indirect Gaza ceasefire talks.

The first phase of a truce between Hamas and Israel in the Gaza Strip ended on March 1 without agreement on the next stages. A senior Hamas official said on Tuesday fresh talks had begun in Doha, with Israel also sending negotiators.

"Yesterday, a Hamas leadership delegation received a proposal from the brotherly mediators to resume negotiations," the Islamist movement said in a statement.

Lengthy wait: Relatives and supporters of Israeli hostages protest demanding their release in Tel Aviv on Thursday. REUTERS

It added that its reply "included its agreement to release the Israeli soldier Edan Alexander, who holds American citizenship, along with the remains of four others holding dual citizenship".

A Hamas official, Taher al-Nounou, said that "the five individuals that Hamas agreed to release under the new American proposal are Israeli prisoners holding American nationality."

During the initial six-week phase of the ceasefire, militants released 33 hostages, including eight who were deceased, in exchange for about 1,800 Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons.

Israel has said it wants to extend the first phase of the ceasefire but Hamas has insisted on talks for the second phase of the deal which the United States, Qatar and Egypt had mediated and took effect on January 19.

Despite the expiry of the first phase, the ceasefire has largely held.

Israel's military on Thursday said it carried out an air strike targeting militants who were planting explosives in central Gaza, the latest such strike.

Israel halted aid flows into Gaza 13 days ago over the truce impasse. At the weekend, it also cut off the electricity supply to the territory.

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said that Israeli forces should have pulled out of a strip of land along the Gaza-Egypt border under the first phase.

Trump hails 'productive' truce talks with Russia

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday his administration had "productive" talks with Russia about a ceasefire in Ukraine, urging counterpart Vladimir Putin to spare Ukrainian soldiers on the front line.

Mr. Trump envoy Steve Witkoff met Mr. Putin late Thursday to lay out the details of a joint U.S.-Ukrainian plan, which envisages a 30-day pause in hostilities between Moscow and Kyiv after three years of war. "We had very good and productive discussions with President Vladimir Putin of Russia yesterday, and there is a very good chance that this horrible, bloody war can finally come to an end," Mr. Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

Donald Trump

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt clarified to reporters that Mr. Trump had not spoken to Mr. Putin himself on Thursday.

The Kremlin said earlier it was "cautiously optimistic" a deal could be reached, but that Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin needed to speak directly before talks could progress.

In Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Mr. Putin of trying to "sabotage diplomacy" after the Russian leader said he had "serious questions" over how a ceasefire would work.

"He is now doing everything he can to sabotage diplomacy by setting extremely difficult and unacceptable conditions right from the start even before a ceasefire," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

Mr. Trump also appealed to Mr. Putin over what he said were "thousands" of Ukrainian troops who were "completely surrounded by the Russian military, and in a very bad and vulnerable position".

Kyiv quickly denied Mr. Trump's claim, saying there was "no threat" of its troops being encircled.

China urges end to 'illegal' sanctions as it hosts talks with Iran

Associated Press
TAIPEI

Representatives of China, Russia and Iran called on Friday for an end to U.S. sanctions on Iran over its rapidly advancing nuclear program and a restart to multinational talks on the issue.

The talks are the latest attempt to broach the matter and come after U.S. President Donald Trump wrote to Iran's supreme leader in an attempt to jumpstart talks.

The letter, which has not been published, was offered as Mr. Trump levied new sanctions on Iran as part of his "maximum pressure" campaign that holds out the possibility of military action while emphasising he still believed a new deal could be reached.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had mocked Mr. Trump, saying he wasn't interested in talks with a "bullying government".

U.S. and Israel look to Africa for resettling Palestinians from Gaza

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

The U.S. and Israel have reached out to officials of three East African governments to discuss using their territories as potential destinations for resettling Palestinians uprooted from the Gaza Strip under President Donald Trump's proposed postwar plan, American and Israeli officials say.

The contacts with Sudan, Somalia and the breakaway region of Somalia known as Somaliland reflect the determination by the U.S. and Israel to press ahead with a plan that has been widely condemned and raised serious legal and moral issues. Because all three places are poor, and in some cases wracked by violence, the proposal also casts doubt on Mr. Trump's stated goal of resettling Gaza's Palestinians in a "beautiful area".

Officials from Sudan said they have rejected overtures from the U.S., while officials from Somalia and Somaliland said that they were not aware of any contacts.

Under Mr. Trump's plan, Gaza's more than 2 million people would be permanently sent elsewhere. He has proposed the U.S. would take ownership of the territory, oversee a clean-up process and develop it as real estate project.

Columbia punishes protesters amid federal cuts over 'anti-Semitism' concerns

Reuters
NEW YORK

Columbia University on Thursday said it had doled out a range of punishments to students who occupied a campus building last spring during pro-Palestinian protests.

The announcement came a week after President Donald Trump's administration announced that it had cancelled $400 million in federal grants and contracts in response to what it said was the Ivy League school's poor response to anti-Semitism on campus.

Columbia University's interim president Katrina Armstrong has called the administration's concerns legitimate and said her institution was working with the government to address them. Campus protests and pro-Israel counter-protests have drawn allegations of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and racism.

Students with the Gaza Solidarity Encampment block the entrance of Hamilton Hall at Columbia University in April 2024. AP

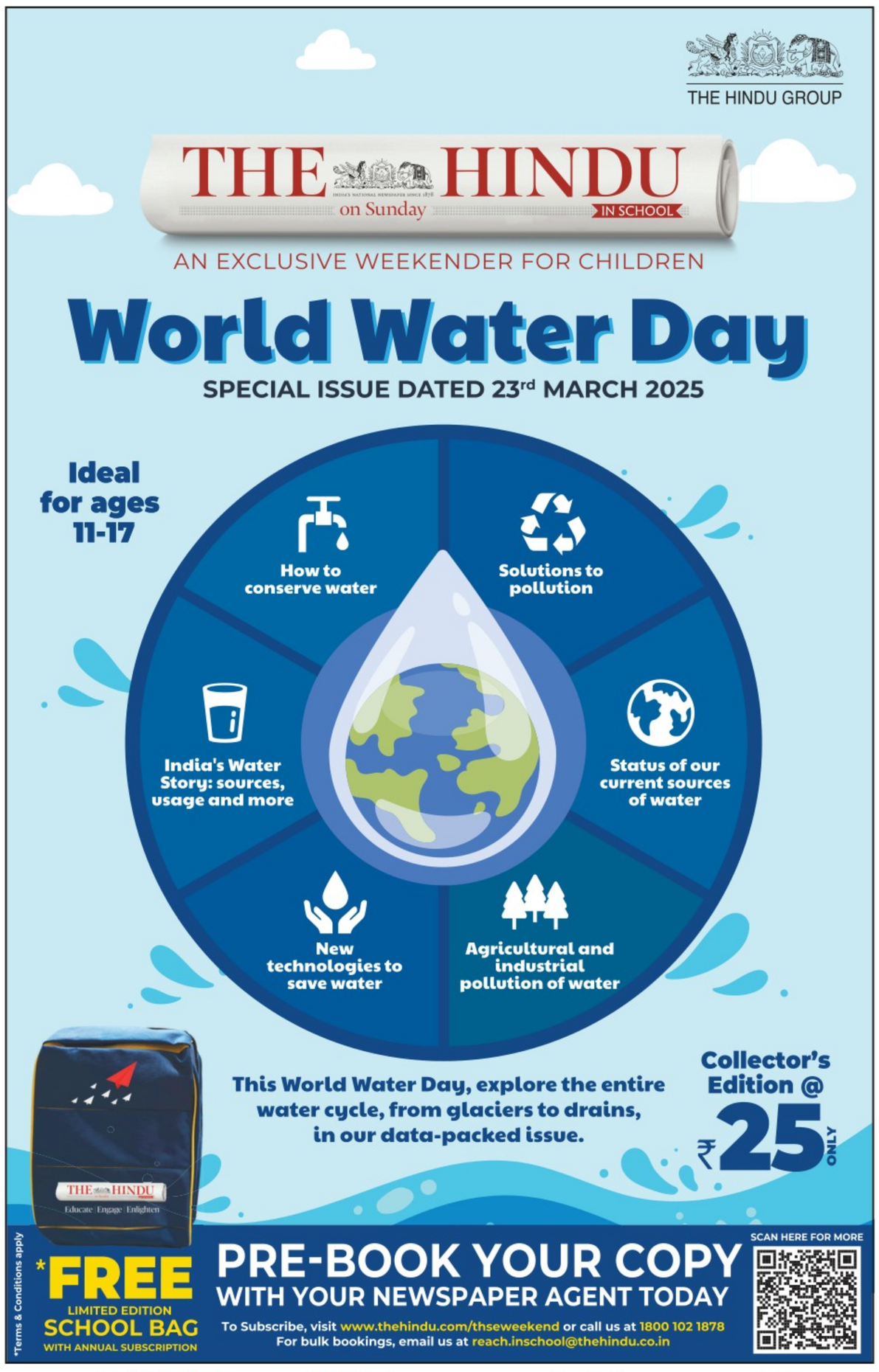
The university said in a statement on Thursday that its "judicial board determined findings and issued sanctions to students ranging from multi-year suspensions, temporary degree revocations, and expulsions related to the occupation of Hamilton Hall last spring".

The university's judicial board is comprised of students, faculty and staff selected by the university Senate.

Names not released

The university, citing legal privacy restrictions, did not release the names of students who were disciplined, nor did it say how many students faced punishments, which the students can appeal.

Columbia was the epicenter of anti-Israel protests that hit several U.S. college campuses. The demonstrations began after the Hamas attack on Israel in October 2023 and subsequent U.S.-supported Israeli assault on Gaza.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WAIT AND SEE

Not given it a lot of thought: Lanning on taking up India role

SANDEEP SAXENA

At the start of this WPL season, former India opener W.V. Raman had suggested that Meg Lanning should be brought in as the Indian team's mentor for the Women's ODI World Cup. Reacting to it, the Delhi Capitals skipper said: "It's not something I've given a lot of thought to. We will see what happens down the track".

COMPLEMENTING EACH OTHER

Sciver-Brunt and Matthews making merry in tandem

SANDEEP SAXENA

Nat Sciver-Brunt and Hayley Matthews' 133-run partnership for the second wicket against Gujarat Giants in the Eliminator on Thursday was their third century stand in three seasons of the WPL. Sciver-Brunt said: "Apart from this competition, I haven't batted with Hayley. But we seem to click pretty well from the first year".

SETBACK

MI spearhead Bumrah likely to miss initial rounds of IPL

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Jasprit Bumrah is likely to miss the initial rounds of the IPL 2025 matches for Mumbai Indians as the star pacer is still recovering from the lower back injury that rendered him out of action since January. Bumrah suffered the injury during the fifth Test against Australia at the SCG. He might link up with the squad in the first week of April.

AT THE HELM

Senior pro Axar Patel to lead Delhi Capitals in IPL 2025

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

India all-rounder Axar Patel has been named captain of Delhi Capitals for upcoming IPL on expected lines pipping another senior player K.L. Rahul, who joined the team this season. Currently the team's longest serving player, having played six seasons for Delhi since 2019, the 31-year-old was DC's top retention for ₹16.50 crore.

Capitals, Mumbai Indians eye big prize in a battle of equals

The in-form Sciver-Brunt and Matthews hold the key as the Harmanpreet-led home team looks to regain the coveted trophy; Lanning & Co. aim to win maiden title in what will be a repeat of the inaugural edition's summit clash

WPL

Vivek Krishnan
MUMBAI

Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians have been here before. In 2023, it was these two heavyweights that squared off in the grand finale of the inaugural Women's Premier League and vied for the tag of champion. On that March night at the Brabourne Stadium, a brisk walk away from Marine Drive, Harmanpreet Kaur's team was clinical and celebrated with the glittering trophy by its side.

With the third season having had a longer span and traversed more venues, an indicator of the T20 league's steady growth, there's arguably greater satisfaction to be derived from prevailing in Saturday's high-stakes battle at this iconic venue. Which team that will be, though, is anybody's guess.

Both outfits are brimming with match-winners. For Mumbai Indians, its A-listers came to the fore in some style against Gujarat Giants in the Eliminator on Thursday.

Hayley Matthews and Nat Sciver-Brunt predictably set the tone, stitching together a 133-run partnership that pretty much batted GG out of the contest.

Their importance to MI on Saturday cannot be overstated, for they have the calibre to turn on the switch in a trice. Their numbers are imposing: Sciver-Brunt's 493 runs are the most by anyone in a season.

Matthews is third in the list with 304 runs, and also leads the wicket-takers' tally with 17 scalps. Amelia Kerr, another MI star, is a close second with 16 scalps. There's also the pace of Shabnim Ismail to contend with.

Such pedigree could overawe most teams, but Delhi Capitals has a squad of similar stature. In Meg Lanning and Shafali Verma, it has an opening duo that provides a solid foundation consistently.

While Jemimah Rodrigues hasn't been among the runs this season, Jess Jonassen, Annabel Sutherland and Marizanne Kapp have plenty of ammunition in the middle-order.

Just as pertinent will be how DC's bowlers fare against Sciver-Brunt and Co.

Particularly if Shikha Pandey's new-ball burst doesn't yield a couple of breakthroughs, it may exert pressure on spinners Jonassen and Minnu Mani.

These subplots can hopefully result in a grand ending to a tournament that has done its bit to entertain us over the past month.

The final showdown

Delhi Capitals will be gunning for its maiden title while Mumbai Indians will look for its second crown as the teams face off on Saturday.

Head-to-head Matches: 7 DC: 4 MI: 3

- **2** Mumbai Indians, the 2023 champion, will be figuring in its second summit clash
- **5** Sciver-Brunt's half-centuries this season, the most by a batter in a WPL season
- **3** Number of finals for Delhi Capitals - all through direct qualification
- **17** Matthews' wicket-tally is the highest in an edition. She has surpassed her own mark of 16 (inaugural season)
- **3** The number of 100-run partnerships between MI's Sciver-Brunt and Matthews. For DC, Lanning and Shafali have also registered three 100-run stands.
- **21** In all the matches so far this season, the team winning the toss has opted to bowl
- **493** Number of runs scored by Sciver-Brunt in this campaign, the best by a batter in a season

COMPILED BY VIVEK KRISHNAN

Sciver-Brunt. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Harmanpreet says she has the licence to play freely

Vivek Krishnan
MUMBAI

In all the gushing praise that Nat Sciver-Brunt and Hayley Matthews justifiably received for their half-centuries against Gujarat Giants on Thursday, what perhaps took a backseat was Harmanpreet Kaur's 12-ball 36.

She was certainly offered a superb platform by the two overseas stars, but by scoring at a strike rate of 300 to propel her team to its highest-ever WPL total of 213 for four, the 35-year-old showed why she is a treasured asset for Mumbai Indians and India.

Harmanpreet's knock at the Brabourne Stadium was a microcosm of how she has batted all season. By playing the big shots from the outset - her strike-rate of 156.29 is her best across three editions - she has seemingly returned to being the Harmanpreet that captivated observers a few years ago.

On the eve of the final, Harmanpreet said her approach was a result of the team's greater batting depth this season.

"The team has a very long batting line-up," Harmanpreet said on Friday. "We have tried to add a few young Indian batters who can bat in the death overs. So, that gave us confidence that I don't need to wait for a bit of time and rotate strike and play the big shots only when the time is right."

Stealing the show: Harmanpreet's 12-ball 36 was instrumental in MI taking the game away from GG in the Eliminator. EMMANUAL YOGINI

For the Meg Lanning-led Delhi Capitals, meanwhile, the thrust of the questions was on the team's defeats in the previous two finals.

"The final has obviously a lot more on the line than a league game," the 32-year-old skipper said. "But it's also an exciting opportunity. Throughout the season, we have had different players step up at different times. That gives us a lot of confidence. It's really irrelevant what has happened in the past, even what has happened in the league games this year. It's about performing Saturday night."

Lanning was also asked about Shafali Verma's confidence-boosting campaign. While the opener was dropped from the Indian team recently, she has stepped up with 300 runs for Capitals in eight matches. "She seems to be really enjoying her cricket. There's a big smile on her face a lot of the time, which is always a good sign I think," Lanning noted.

Indian campaign ends as Lakshya, Treesa-Gayatri crash out in quarterfinals

ALL ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
BIRMINGHAM

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen bowed out of the All England Championships and so did the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand after losing their respective quarterfinals here on Friday.

Lakshya exited after a straight-game loss to Chinese world No. 6 Li Shi Feng in the men's singles. The 2022 finalist, who narrowly missed out on a Olympic medal last year, was outplayed 10-21, 16-21 in a 45-minute contest.

Then, the duo of Treesa and Gayatri went down to Chinese second seeds Liu Shengshu and Tan Ning 14-21, 10-21.

Treesa and Gayatri failed to recreate their outstanding performance in their round-of-16 victory against South Korea's Kim Hye Jeong and Kong Hee Yong on Thursday.

The Indians started on a bright note, but once the formidable Chinese pair, perhaps the best in the world at the moment, found its footing, it was one-way traffic. With the loss, India's challenge in the prestigious tournament also came to an end.

Impressive show: Gayatri and Treesa gave a good account of themselves in the elite event. FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Struggle

Earlier, Lakshya, ranked world No. 15, and who had won his last two matches against Li, including at the Thomas Cup, struggled against his familiar opponent.

Feng stamped his authority early, winning the first game in just 17 minutes.

He played a composed game, avoiding unnecessary risks.

Lakshya showed signs of improvement in the second game, but Feng remained dominant, sealing the issue in 27 minutes.

Despite the loss, it was a solid campaign for Lakshya, who stunned defending champion Jonatan Christie in straight games, avenging his semifinal defeat to the Indonesian last year.

The results: Quarterfinals:
Men: Li Shi Feng (Chn) bt Lakshya Sen 21-10, 21-16.
Women's doubles: Kim Hye Jeong & Kong Hee Yong (Chn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-14, 21-10.

Rajasthan Royals will look to rumble again

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Imagine Jaipur without the Amber Fort.

Imagining Rajasthan Royals without Jos Buttler is just about as difficult. The white-ball master from England has been like a resolute, intimidating fort at the top of the order for Royals for the last seven years.

Tough decision

Captain Sanju Samson has said the decision to let Buttler go was not easy. It never can be, to relieve someone with 3,055 runs and seven hundreds, from 83 games, at an average of 41.84 and a strike rate of 147.79.

Yuzvendra Chahal and Trent Boult, who took 34 wickets between them last year, won't be there, either.

In the absence of the talented trio, it will indeed be interesting to see how the new coach Rahul Dravid rejigs the eleven, as he takes over Kumar Sangakkara.

Homecoming

For the former India skipper, it is a homecoming. He was, in fact, the captain when Samson made his debut for Royals.

Samson looks almost certain to take over from Buttler in the opener's slot. He showed how explosive he can be in that position when he was given an opportunity in the Indian team last year: all his three T20I hundreds came as an opener.

If he recaptures such form, and his partner Yashasvi Jaiswal gets going, it should be fun.

Few batting duos could match their artistry at the IPL. The Royals need some great starts from them.

They also would want Nitish Rana, who has moved from Kolkata Knight Riders at a price of ₹4.2 crore, to make plenty of runs.

Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Shimron Hetmyer and Shubham Dubey lend skills and power to the middle-order.

The return of Jofra Archer should gladden the Royals team management.

The Jamaica-born England fast bowler was brilliant in his first three seasons at Jaipur, claiming 46 wickets, before he got injured.

The seam bowling department also features the wily Sandeep Sharma, Tushar Deshpande, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Akash Madhwal and the exciting young South African left-armer Kwena Maphaka, while spin has a Sri Lankan flavour in Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana.

The new-look Royals will be hoping to build on last year's finish when it lost in the Qualifier.

IPL-18 COUNTDOWN

Rajasthan Royals

THE DUGOUT
Sanju Samson (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Nitish Rana, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Shimron Hetmyer, Wanindu Hasaranga, Jofra Archer, Sandeep Sharma, Maheesh Theekshana, Tushar Deshpande, Shubham Dubey, Yudhvir Singh, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Akash Madhwal, Kwena Maphaka, Ashok Sharma, Kumar Kartikeya, Kunal Singh Rathore, Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

OVERALL NUMBERS

M	W	L	NR
222	112	107	3

BY OPPONENT

	M	W	L	NR
RCB	31	14	15	2
DC	29	15	14	0
KKR	29	14	14	1
MI	29	14	15	0
CSK	29	13	16	0
PBKS	28	16	12	0
SRH	20	9	11	0
GT	6	1	5	0
LSG	5	4	1	0

Royals' remaining matches were against Deccan Chargers (9), PWI (5) and KTK (2)

THE DRIVING FORCE
SANJU SAMSON: He may be getting more chances to don the blue jersey only now, but he has always been a giant in pink on the IPL stage with his dazzling strokeplay. Jos Buttler's absence and his long-awaited success in international cricket could spur him on further.

RR'S 2025 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN

March 23	vs SRH	Hyderabad	3.30 p.m.
March 26	vs KKR	Guwahati	7.30 p.m.
March 30	vs CSK	Guwahati	7.30 p.m.
April 5	vs PBKS	New Chandigarh	7.30 p.m.
April 9	vs GT	Ahmedabad	7.30 p.m.
April 13	vs RCB	Jaipur	3.30 p.m.
April 16	vs DC	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
April 19	vs LSG	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.
April 24	vs RCB	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
April 28	vs GT	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.
May 1	vs MI	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.
May 4	vs KKR	Kolkata	3.30 p.m.
May 12	vs CSK	Chennai	7.30 p.m.
May 16	vs PBKS	Jaipur	7.30 p.m.

INBRIEF

Alcaraz holds off Cerundolo, keeps three-peat bid on track

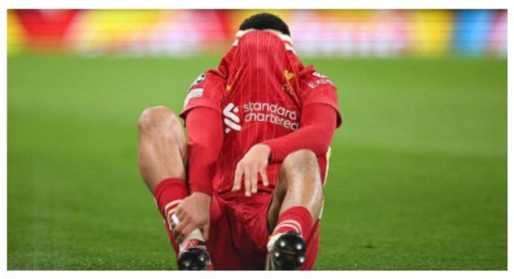
Two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz fought off determined challenger Francisco Cerundolo 6-3, 7-6(4) on Thursday to reach the semifinals of the Indian Wells ATP Masters. On another cold, blustery night in the California desert, Alcaraz battled back from 1-4 down in the second set, coming up with a break and two love service holds to force the tiebreaker as he kept his bid to join Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic as the only men to win three straight Indian Wells titles on track.

The results: Quarterfinals: Men's singles: Holger Rune bt Tallon Griekspoor 5-7, 6-0, 6-3; Daniil Medvedev bt Arthur Fils 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(7); Jack Draper bt Ben Shelton 6-4, 7-5; Carlos Alcaraz bt Francisco Cerundolo 6-3, 7-6(4).
Women's singles: Iga Swiatek bt Zheng Qinwen 6-3, 6-3; Mirra Andreeva bt Elina Svitolina 7-5, 6-3; Madison Keys bt Belinda Bencic 6-1, 6-1; Aryna Sabalenka bt Liudmila Samsonova 6-2, 6-3.

Sriram Balaji sails into doubles quarterfinals

Sriram Balaji and Miguel Reyes-Varela of Mexico beat Tristan Boyer and Govind Nanda of USA 6-1, 6-3 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the $250,000 Challenger tennis in Cap Cana, Dominican Republic.

Other results: $250,000 Challenger, Cap Cana, Dominican Republic: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Santiago Gonzalez (Mex) & Lucas Miedler (Aut) bt Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Rithvik Bollipalli 7-6(5), 6-3.
€91,250 Challenger, Cherbourg, France: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Lukas Pokorny (Svk) & Giorgio Ricca (Ita) bt Vijay Sundar Prashanth & Szymon Walkkow (Pol) 6-4, 7-6(11).
$40,000 ITF women, Shenzhen: Doubles: Semifinals: Zongyu Li & Fang Ying Xun (Chn) bt Priska Nugroho (Ina) & Ankita Raina 7-5, 6-4.
$30,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi: Doubles: Semifinals: Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Thasaporn Naklo & Bunyawi Thamchaiwat (Tha) 5-7, 6-4, [10-5].



Liverpool's Alexander-Arnold to miss League Cup final

Liverpool right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold will miss the English League Cup final against Newcastle because of a significant ankle injury, manager Arne Slot confirmed on Friday. Ibrahima Konate should be available for Sunday's final at Wembley Stadium, however, as the central defender was expected to return to training. Konate was substituted in extra time of the Champions League game against Paris Saint-Germain.

ROUND-UP

Falcon beats Beasant
Falcon HC deated Beasant HC-A 2-0 in the KSHA-BHA Super Division league hockey here on Friday.
The result: Falcon 2 (Benny Belliappa 20, Mayur 27) bt Beasant-A 0.

Big win for Bangalore Dream United
Bangalore Dream United FC blanked Young Challengers 6-0 in the BDFA Urbanrise A-division league football here on Friday.
The results: Jawahar Union FC 1 (R. Allan Paul 40) drew with DYES FC 1 (Ajay Shankar Kadam 47); Bangalore Dream United FC 6 (K. Lalrinfela 20, Londuup Lepcha 29, 51, Jair Hari Barman 40+4, Ritik Singh 55, J.P. Neeraj 59) bt Young Challengers FC 0.

Title for Aniket
Aniket Venkatraman of Tamil Nadu beat Chandan Shivaraj of Karnataka 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 in the final to win the singles title at the CRS Trust-AITA ₹1 lakh prize money tennis here on Friday. Rashein Samuel of Karnataka and Irfan Hussain of Tamil Nadu won the doubles title beating D. Parth and Jay Pawar 6-1, 6-2.

LIVE TELECAST

Formula One: Australian GP (Qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 10.30 a.m.
LaLiga: gxr.world, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: gxr.world, 5, 7.30, 8.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
WPL (final): Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8.30 & 11 p.m.

Ferrari's Leclerc shades new teammate Hamilton in the second practice

McLaren's Norris is third while Verstappen, chasing a second win in Australia to kickstart his bid for a fifth consecutive world title, is seventh

AUSTRALIAN GP

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc powered to the quickest time ahead of Oscar Piastri in second practice at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Friday, with Lewis Hamilton fifth and Max Verstappen only seventh.

Leclerc outshone new teammate Hamilton with a best lap round Melbourne's Albert Park circuit of one minute 16.439 seconds on soft tyres, 0.124 clear of McLaren's Piastri.

Monaco's Leclerc set the pace with 25 minutes to go and no-one could catch him, with the other McLaren of Lando Norris third ahead of surprise-package Yuki Tsunoda in an RB.

"It's too early to come to any conclusions," said Leclerc.

"We will only get a first idea of the respective pace of all the teams in qualifying.

"All in all it was a good day and we look forward to tomorrow, when we want to target pole position."

Seven-time world champion Hamilton was fifth as he gradually adjusts to life in a new car after his shock move to Ferrari from Mercedes after 12 years.

The Briton cautioned this week that everything at Scuderia was different and there could be a transition period while he settles in.

He was better than in first practice, where he came 12th, but still 0.420 seconds behind his team-mate.

"We were not completely satisfied with FP1 but we made some good progress in FP2 and got some solid longer runs in, which was important," said Hamilton.

Rookie Isack Hadjar came sixth in the second RB ahead of world champion Verstappen, who clocked 10 laps fewer than Leclerc as he pitted for fine-tuning.

Verstappen is chasing a second win in Australia after his 2023 victory to kickstart his bid for a fifth consecutive world title, a feat only Michael Schumacher has achieved.

"Today the grip wasn't great and we were struggling on all four tyres, particularly in sector one and in the final sector," said the Dutchman.

"It feels like we are not up there at the moment but we will work to find more pace."

His new teammate Liam Lawson, who took over from the axed Sergio Perez, fared even worse, slumping to 17th.

Mercedes struggles
Mercedes also struggled with George Russell 10th and Kimi Antonelli, who replaced Hamilton, 16th.

But McLaren, who took the constructors' title last season, was content, with Norris calling it "a decent first day back in the car".

"Good feelings all in all," said the Briton, who is the bookmakers' favourite to win the world title this year after pressing Verstappen hard in 2024.

Formula One's 2025 guide

Here's all you need to know as the drivers and teams gear up for the 24-race season:

THE TEAMS AND DRIVERS

McLaren	Lando Norris	Oscar Piastri
Ferrari	Lewis Hamilton	Charles Leclerc
Red Bull	Max Verstappen	Liam Lawson
Mercedes	George Russell	Andrea Kimi Antonelli
Aston Martin	Fernando Alonso	Lance Stroll
Alpine	Pierre Gasly	Jack Doohan
Haas	Esteban Ocon	Oliver Bearman
Racing Bulls	Yuki Tsunoda	Isack Hadjar
Williams	Alex Albon	Carlos Sainz
Sauber	Nico Hulkenberg	Gabriel Bortoleto

THE DATES

Australia	March 16
China*	March 23
Japan	April 6
Bahrain	April 13
Saudi Arabia	April 20
Miami*	May 4
Emilia Romagna	May 18
Monaco	May 25
Spain	June 1
Canada	June 15
Austria	June 29
Great Britain	July 6
Belgium*	July 27
Hungary	Aug. 3
Netherlands	Aug. 31
Italy	Sept. 7
Azerbaijan	Sept. 21
Singapore	Oct. 5
USA*	Oct. 19
Mexico	Oct. 26
Brazil*	Nov. 9
Las Vegas	Nov. 22
Qatar*	Nov. 30
Abu Dhabi	Dec. 7

*Sprint weekends

> Today the grip wasn't great and we were struggling on all four tyres, particularly in sector one and in the final sector. It feels like we are not up there at the moment but we will work to find more pace
> **VERSTAPPEN**

Karthik credits IPL for Team India's winning mentality

CRICKET

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

> India is in a privileged place with an assortment of players across skill-sets
> **KARTHIK**

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik said that the present Indian white-ball side can dominate world cricket for the next decade and more.

Speaking during a session moderated by former English cricketer Isa Guha at the RCB Innovation Lab Indian Sports Summit here on Friday, the 39-year-old, also Royal Challengers Bengaluru's mentor, felt that this was a direct consequence of the quality of the IPL and strength of domestic cricket.

"Not many countries can say that they can field two to three international teams and compete with any of them," said Karthik, who was in the XI when India won the Champions Trophy in 2013 and behind the mike as a broadcaster last Sunday when India triumphed in Dubai.

"India is in a privileged place with an assortment of players across skill-sets. In the last nine months, they have won two massive competitions (T20 World Cup and Champions Trophy). Sky is the limit for them."

Karthik credited the IPL for bringing about a revolution. "For a long time, India was happy to just be competing.

"That attitude has changed to 'we want to win'. And with the influx of money, a lot of it has been put back into the game. When the infrastructure grows, the quality develops.

"I debuted [in international cricket] in 2004. For me, the ideology with which Australia played was a massive shock.

"They had high skill and they just felt like a pack of wolves out to win every game.

"Come the IPL, I got the chance to play with Glenn McGrath. I got to know so much about him that I became comfortable. The awe factor reduced and that really helped compete against the best."

RCB will now hope for a similar shift in its own mentality. "We are a big brand but that IPL trophy has been elusive," said Mo Bobat, RCB's director of cricket. "You only have to be in Bangalore for five minutes to be reminded of that."

"But that's a good example of something you have to walk towards. A big part of the [ongoing] preparations is to keep players excited by the opportunity and not see the threat of what could go wrong".

Words of wisdom: Karthik, centre, with Isa and RCB's director of cricket Bobat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Handbook Of Cricket Psychology: Srinath and Viswanath's book released

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The launch event of the book, *Handbook Of Cricket Psychology*, co-authored by K. Srinath and M.N. Viswanath, brought together cricket stars from Karnataka and beyond.

Former India players W.V. Raman, S. Aravind, Dodda Ganesh and Sudhakar Rao were some of the popular names who graced the occasion here on Friday.

The evening began with a lively panel discussion featuring Srinath, Viswanath, Raman and veteran cricket writer R. Kaushik.

Camaraderie
Srinath had turned out for Karnataka in the early 1990s, before moving and representing Tamil Nadu. Raman spoke about the camaraderie that existed in that era between players of the neighbouring States. "In those days, players from both teams stayed in the same hotel. Anyone could end up in any room. We fought hard on the field, but in the evenings, it was time to socialise," Raman said.

Srinath, now a BCCI umpire, explained that moving from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu was a great challenge. "I had to be mentally strong to switch over. However, I can now say I spent a fabulous 19 years in the city of Chennai," Srinath said.

The session was moderated by sports consultant and cricket writer, Satish Viswanathan.

Star-studded: Former India players Raman, Aravind, Ganesh and Sudhakar were some of the popular names who graced the occasion. ASHWIN ACHAL

Star Glory claims the Madras Race Club Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Narredu trained Star Glory (Yash up), won the Madras Race Club Trophy (1,200m), the main event of the races held here on Friday (Mar 14). The winner is owned by Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mr. S. Narredu.

THE RESULTS

1. LINGANAMAKKI STAKES (1,400M): CHARISMATIC (Akshay K) 1, Ziva (Trevor) 2, Star Studded (Yash) 3 and Ilia (Antony) 4. 5, 1-1/4 and 4-1/2. 1m 25.22s. Rs. 17 (w), 11, 11 and 14 (p), SHP: 24, THP: 33, FP: 36, Q: 22, Trinella: 57/35, Exacta: 151/87. Favourite: Charismatic.
Owners: M/s. Cherie Sports Pvt Ltd, Mr. Sumit Mazumder & Mr. Ashok Ranpise. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

2. MANIKYADHARA FALLS PLATE (1,600M): STENTORIAN (Yash) 1, Vafadar (Trevor) 2, N R I Victory (Jagadeesh) 3 and Thewhisperquietly (L.A. Rozario) 4. 3/4, 1 and 3/4. 1m 38.37s. Rs. 21 (w), 12, 14 and 17 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 37, FP: 62, Q: 45, Trinella: 187/87, Exacta: 247/119. Favourite: Stentorian.
Owners: Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni, Mr. Teja Gollapudi & Mr. S. Narredu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

3. SARB-KLA PLATE (1,100M): FORTIS (Shreyas S) 1, Aatherv (Akshay K) 2, Konkaraah (Antony) 3 and Husanara (Yash) 4. Not run: Petite Image. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 1/2. 1m 06.21s. Rs. 39 (w), 13, 19 and 25 (p), SHP: 54, THP: 63, FP: 522, Q: 300, Trinella: 2,258/1,129, Exacta: 6,002/2,572. Favourite: Flaming Sword.
Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd & M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

4. SIR CHARLES TODHUNTER MEMORIAL CUP (1,200M): INVINCIBLE (Neeraj) 1, High Speed Dive (R. Pradeep) 2, Adamas (Shrikant Kamble) 3 and Springsteen (Trevor) 4. 4-1/2, 1 and Nk. 1m 13.24s. Rs. 30 (w), 16, 22 and 23 (p), SHP: 70, THP: 56, FP: 199, Q: 122, Trinella: 1,186/626, Exacta: 2,446/710. Favourite: Springsteen.
Owner: Mr. Reethan B.K. Trainer: Narayana Gowda.

5. MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,200M): STAR GLORY (Yash) 1, Metzinger (Neeraj) 2, Aldgate (Antony) 3 and Vivaldo (Trevor) 4. Nk, 1 and Lnk. 1m 12.24s. Rs. 70 (w), 17, 18 and 18 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 46, FP: 735, Q: 438, Trinella: 2,777/1,110, Exacta: 5,236/1,402. Favourite: Vivaldo.
Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mr. S. Narredu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

6. BRAHMAPUTRA PLATE (1,400M): VICTORIARAYA (Akshay K) 1, Winfield (Antony) 2, Monterio (Vivek) 3 and Basilica (Trevor) 4. 1-1/2, 2-1/4 and Nose. 1m 25.99s. Rs. 66 (w), 22, 13 and 16 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 41, FP: 311, Q: 125, Trinella: 1,026/542, Exacta: 2,604/862. Favourite: Lords Grace.
Owner: Mr. Ananda C. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

7. SOUPARNIKA PLATE (1,200M): DUFY (Neeraj) 1, Agera (Akshay K) 2, Princess Jasmine (Suhas K) 3 and Super Kind (R. Pradeep) 4. 6-3/4, Shd and 1. 1m 13.07s. Rs. 19 (w), 13, 13 and 67 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 195, FP: 42, Q: 24, Trinella: 697/782, Exacta: 2,765/455. Favourite: Dufy.
Owner: Mr. J.S. Lokesh. Trainer: G.Y. Rajesh Babu.
Jackpot: Rs. 29,618 (12 tkts); Runner-up: 6,924 (22 tkts); Treble (i): 1,263 (eight tkts); (ii): 1,536 (28 tkts).

Youngsters not using their chances: Vimal

He says BAI needs to set up more academies like the one in Guwahati so that players from different parts of the country can come and train easily

BADMINTON

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After the medal-less Paris Olympics, Indian badminton has been caught on the wrong foot, with top players struggling with poor form and injuries, and the second crop failing to live up to the expectations.

Former National coach and Dhronacharya awardee U. Vimal Kumar is a little worried that the youngsters are not making use of their opportunities.

Carry the momentum: Vimal says Lakshya has to find consistency and win some big tournaments. FILE PHOTO

Potential

"Kiran George and Sathish Karunakaran showed immense potential but they have not made the big leap into the top 30s, so that they can play in the super series events regularly. They have to make it big in the next year, otherwise it will be difficult for them as a lot of promising players are coming up from other countries.

"At their age they should be winning tournaments by now. Ayush Shetty has come up with some good wins and has entered the top 40, which is a healthy sign. He can be a big star considering he is only 19. Tharun Mannepalli is another player who holds promise," said the coach who was in Thiruvananthapuram on a private visit.

"Lakshya Sen is still among the top 20. But he has to find consistency and win some big tournaments, the super 1000 and super 750 events. He is going to be our mainstay in the coming years,'' he added.

"As far as women are concerned, we have really good young players coming up the ranks, so I am not that worried.

"Malvika Bansod is a good player. But our women shuttlers are unable to find a finishing stroke. They need the sharpness to finish a rally and need to work on that aspect," he added.

Not a business

On the success of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, Vimal added: "It was not only about the dedication and passion we had... coaching was never a business for us. We never charged any fees from our trainees. We covered the expenses through sponsorship and we could demand and push the players to train hard."

On the BAI academy in Guwahati, he opined: "It is good that BAI has started an academy in Guwahati, but we need more such academies and they should be strategically located so that players from different parts of the country can come and train without any hassles."

Monetary factor

Vimal said that he likes the idea of players becoming coaches. "I am always in favour of players becoming coaches at the end of their careers. But coaching is a professional job which requires dedication. If someone is sacrificing something, maybe their job, they should be monetarily compensated".

Icons of 1975: reliving India's hockey fairytale

GOLDEN JUBILEE

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Five decades ago, India lifted its only Hockey World Cup crown. After a topsy-turvy tournament, the Ajit Pal Singh-led Indian team scripted history, notching up a thrilling 2-1 win over arch-rival Pakistan on March 15 at the Merdeka Football Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

Here are the members of that Indian men's hockey team:

Ajit Pal Singh (Captain), a Padma Shri awardee, he guided the team to the World Cup title in Kuala Lumpur in 1975. He played as a half-back and also won two Olympic bronze medals (1968 Mexico City and 1972 Munich) and two Asian Games silver.

Ashok Kumar, the son of hockey legend Dhyan Chand, scored the winning goal in the final. He was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1974, and the Yash Bharti by the UP government in 2013. In 2024, he was awarded the Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.

Leslie Fernandez, the team's goalkeeper, denied Pakistan's attempt to score the winning goal in the final minutes of the game.

Ashok Diwan, one of the younger members of the team, was also a part of the 1976 Olympics team.

He is one of the three athletes who received the Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games in its inaugural year in 2002.

Surjit Singh made his India debut in the 1973 Hockey World Cup in Amsterdam, where the team came second. He was the first Indian to score in the 1975 edition. He died in a car accident in 1984 after retiring from the sport, and was awarded the Arjuna Award posthumously in 1998.

Epochal triumph: Indian players take a lap of honour after the final against Pakistan. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Michael Kindo was a full-back in the Indian team which competed in the 1971 Men's Hockey World Cup, 1972 Summer Olympics, 1973 Men's Hockey World Cup, 1974 Asian Games, and 1975 Men's Hockey World Cup. In 1972, he became the first Adivasi athlete to receive the Arjuna Award. He passed away on December 31, 2020.

Aslam Sher Khan is best known for his penalty corner conversion in the final minutes of the 1975 World Cup semifinal against Malaysia. Before this, the full-back also took part in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

He was selected as the head of a committee by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to organise hockey in India after the suspension of the Indian Hockey Federation in 2008.

Varinder Singh was a part of the medal-winning Indian side at the 1972 Munich Olympics, the 1973 World Cup and the 1975 World Cup. He moved to coaching after retirement and received the Dhyan Chand Award in 2007. He passed away on June 28, 2022.

Onkar Singh, another one of the young brigade in the team, played in the half-back position.

He was part of the starting XI in the World Cup only briefly in a match against Ghana, which resulted in a 7-0 win for the Indian side.

Mohinder Singh scored four goals in the World Cup. He also competed at the 1976 Summer Olympics and 1970 Asian Games, where he did not feature in any match.

He died at the age of 26 on September 20, 1977, following a short illness.

B.P. Govinda played as a forward and was a former captain of the Indian team. Apart from the 1975 World Cup, he represented India in the silver-winning Asian Games teams of 1970, 1974, and 1978, the bronze-winning 1972 Munich Olympic squad, and the silver-winning 1973 Amsterdam World Cup squad. He later went on to take up the role of selector for the national team.

Harcharan Singh was an attacking left-winger. Harcharan's standout moment came in the semifinal against Malaysia, where he scored the crucial winner in extra time, turning the tide in India's favour after trailing 1-2.

Harjinder Singh played as a centre forward.

V.J. Philips led the Indian team during the 1978 World Cup and was a member of the side that won in 1975. He was also a part of the bronze medal-winning squad at the 1972 Munich Olympics. The Government of India gave him the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006 for his contribution to hockey.

Shivaji Pawar, a centre forward, scored two goals in the tournament.

P.E. Kalaiah made headlines when he was part of a combined University hockey team of 1971, which toured Germany and Holland. He became the president of Hockey Coorg in 2015.

BRIC - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF IMMUNOLOGY
(An autonomous research institute of BRIC, Department of Biotechnology)
Government of India
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067, URL: http://www.nii.res.in

Admission to Ph.D. Programme for the Academic Year 2025-26 (Monsoon-Session)

BRIC- National Institute of Immunology (NII) invites applications for its Ph.D. programme. Cutting-edge research at NII encompasses broad interdisciplinary areas of Immunology, Infectious and Chronic Disease Biology, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Chemical Biology, Structural Biology and Computational Biology.

Important dates:		
Online Application begins	:	17.03.2025
Online Application closing	:	08.04.2025
Admit card available for download	:	30.04.2025 onwards
NII 2025-26 M (Monsoon-Session) Entrance Examination	:	11.05.2025
The announcement of a list of candidates for interviews	:	16.05.2025
Interviews with Short-listed candidates	:	03.06.2025 -10.06.2025

The details of the application process are available at http://www.nii.res.in.

Women candidates fulfilling the requirements are encouraged to apply
Note: In case of any discrepancy in Hindi language, English language will be considered final.

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372
No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2024-25/3297 Date: 12.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders have been invited for 4 works approved under various schemes under the scope of the project of Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga, Chitradurga district. The estimated cost of the said works is minimum Rs.9.00 lakhs and maximum Rs.100.00 lakhs. The tender has been invited for total amount of Rs.131.00 lakhs.
(1) Last date and time for obtaining information about the tender: 19.03.2025; 11.00 AM **(2)** Last date and time for submission of tenders : 20.03.2025; 16.00 PM **(3)** Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: 21.03.2025; 16.01 PM **(4)** Date and Time of Opening of Financial Bid : 24.03.2025; 16.02 PM
For more information regarding the said tender is requested to contact support@eprochelpdesk.com or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-80-46010000, +91-80-68948777 or is requested to contact office phone number: 08194-222372 (Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Chitradurgar) during office hours.

RO.No.705:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA
Minor Irrigation and Groundwater Development Department
Office of the Project Director, State Program Management Unit (SPMU), #1/1, 2nd Floor, K.S.F.C. Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.
No. ABHY/SPMU/PROC/30/2024-25 Date: 14.03.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICAITON
(Through KPP Portal only)

SPMU, Atal Bhujal Yojana, invited tender from eligible bidders in two cover system through KPP Portal for **"Construction of wire screen filter injection well for artificial recharge of Groundwater along with 2 year operation and maintenance in Atal Bhujal Yojana, Karnataka in 04 Packages-Call-2"**
The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The tender document can be downloaded through KPP Portal from **14.03.2025** onwards and last date for receipt of tender is on or before **21.03.2025, 5:30 p.m.**
Further details can be obtained from the office hours from **10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

DIPR/CP/RO5672/AAPL/2024-25
Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority, SPMU, Atal Jal, Karnataka.

THE CAMPCO LTD., Mangalore
Draft of Tender Notification for Print Media

The Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative Ltd (i.e., THE CAMPCO LTD) is looking forward to hire a reputed and recognized Market Research Agency in the field of FMCG to conduct a comprehensive Market Survey on Chocolate, Whole Black Pepper and Consumer Packed Areca Products.
To know more about the Eligibility Criteria and other submission guidelines you may directly visit to our websites **https://campco.org/tender/** or **https://campcochocolates.com/tender/**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Tr(O)/Circle-South/EE(O)/JE-1/2024-25/9576-81 Date: 13.03.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against **enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(O)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-4/JE-1/24-25/EPR-82 Dated: 01.02.2025** for **"Design, manufacturing testing, and supply of 14 Nos of 66KV Class Potential Transformers (0.2 Accuracy), 31.5KA rating of ratio 66KV/√3/110V/√3-110V/√3-110V/√3 (with Marshalling Boxes and without Mounting Structures) conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications F.O.R.D at stores/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading for the use at various Sub-Stations coming under Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL Bengaluru"**
The Bids will be received through e-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **15.03.2025.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec),
Transmission(Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-09

K-tech STARTUP KARNATAKA

HIRING OF MANPOWER RESOURCES

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT and Bt oversee the activities related to innovation and technology in the State of Karnataka.

Designation : Manager – Programme and Funding, Start-up Cell **No of Posts:** 01.
Remuneration (Consolidated) : Rs.80,000/- **Age Limit:** 35 Years
Job Profile: To assist Start-up Cell in various schemes under Start-up Policy such as ELEVATE and other funding schemes and co-ordinating with K- tech Partners and also any other tasks in Start-up cell under the guidance and supervision of General Manager.
Minimum Qualification / Experience: Full-time MBA/PGDBM/PGDBA (2 years duration). Minimum 6 years of professional work experience in funding programs with good analytical skills and strong hold on Data handling and Management and knowledge in Start-up eco system. Preparing reports, excellent communication skills, strong organizational abilities, problem-solving aptitude. Knowledge about Funding, Documentation, Excellent communication skills (Both Kannada and English).

Designation : Project Executive **No of Posts :** 01.
Remuneration (Consolidated) : Rs.45,000/- **Age Limit :** 35 Years
Job Profile : To assist the Start-up Cell in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Start-ups under the Idea2PoC Grant Scheme (Elevate Unnati/Amrit Start-ups), funded by SWD, OBC, and Minority departments. Co-ordinate with K-tech Partners, Perform any other tasks assigned in the Start-up Cell under the guidance and supervision of the General Manager.

Minimum Qualification / Experience: Any degree with computer knowledge, minimum 2 years of professional work experience, preferably in Incubators/ Accelerators/ Start-up ecosystem. Preparing reports, Excellent communication skills, Strong organizational abilities, Problem-solving aptitude. Knowledge about IT, Reading & Writing ability (Kannada and English).

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the above posts with age limit less than 35 years. The posts are contractual and for a maximum period of 11 months. The details are available at https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/. The eligible candidates should apply in the provided link https://forms.gle/HVdDJYZ8A275qp397 on or before **15/04/2025 by 5.00 pm.** Interview will be conducted for shortlisted candidates only. The decision of Selection Committee will be final and binding.
Scan For Apply

Sd/-
Managing Director

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire # 59 Railway Parallel Road,Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru – 560020
Phone: 080-2223-1006 / 8. E-mail: itbt.kitshr@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/5640/AKAR/2024-25

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041
No. RO KA-32.0012.0/2/2025-CON-RO KA Date: 14.03.2025
ई-निविदा सूचना / e-Tender Notice

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्ष के लिए ऑनलाइन नियमित निविदा आरएस/एफएसडी बल्लारी में एचटीसी के लिए आमंत्रित किया गया है। बोली **25.03.2025 को दोपहर 2.00 बजे के तक** ऑनलाइन जमा की जानी है।
जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्ष के लिए ऑनलाइन नियमित निविदा **1)** आरएच/जीएस हासन से एफएसडी कुशालनगर तक आरटीसी, **2)** आरएच/जीएस नंजनगुड से एफएसडी कुशालनगर तक आरटीसीके लिए आमंत्रित किया गया है। बोली **05.04.2025 को दोपहर 2.00 बजे के तक** ऑनलाइन जमा की जानी है।
एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"** परउपलब्ध हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदा कारों को **"https://gem.gov.in"** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।
Online Tenders for regular HTC at RS/FSD Ballari for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online **within 2.00 PM on 25.03.2025.**
Online Tenders for regular **1)** RTC from RH/GS Hassan to FSD Kushalnagar, **2)** RTC from RH/GS Nanjangud to FSD Kushalnagar for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online **within 2.00 PM on 05.04.2025.**
NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in" &"https://gem.gov.in".** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (Karnataka)

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Sy. No. 124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar - 571313
Email : directorcimscrnagara@gmail.com
Tel : 08226-226701, Website : https://cimscrnagara.karnataka.gov.in

No. CIMS/Tender/Ho.Gu./109/2024-25 Dated : 24-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rule 2000 for the supply of Manpower for posts of Staff Nurses for this Institution and its associated hospitals. The Tenderers may apply the tenders through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or before 11.04.2025 at 5.00 p.m. Those tenders without E.M.D. will be rejected.
If, the last date for submission of tender will be declared as Government Holiday, the next date shall be treated as last date. No separate Notification will be issued in this regard.

DIPR:CHANAGAR:689:2024-25
Sd/- Dean and Director,
CIMS, Chamarajanagar.

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Sy. No. 124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar - 571313
Email : directorcimscrnagara@gmail.com
Tel : 08226-226701, Website : https://cimscrnagara.karnataka.gov.in

No. CIMS/Tender/Ho.Gu./96/2024-25 Dated : 15-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rule 2000 for the supply of Manpower services for various technical posts for this Institution and its associated hospitals. The Tenderers may apply the tenders through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or before 15.04.2025 at 5.00 p.m. Those tenders without E.M.D. will be rejected.
If, last date for submission of tender will be declared as Government Holiday, the next date shall be treated as last date. No separate Notification will be issued in this regard.

DIPR:CHANAGAR:691:2024-25
Sd/- Dean and Director,
CIMS, Chamarajanagar.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere Bangalore - 560 054.
No.: EE/MLM/KPPP/11/2024-25 Date:13.03.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only) (Call-3)

The Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, BBMP invites competitive bids from reputed Firm / Agencies for **'Rate Contract for Removal of Unauthorized structures and deviated portions of building in Malleshwaram Division' (Call-3)** on Rate Contract Basis. Only one proposal shall be submitted along with respective EMD and application fee.
1) The bid documents, including the request for proposal (RFP) and draft agreement can be downloaded from the GoK KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 18.03.2025 onwards. 2)** Last date for receipt of queries and pre-bid meeting: **21.03.2025 upto 16:00 Hours. 3)** Last date for submission of Tenders: **28.032025 upto 16:00 Hours. 4)** Date of opening of Technical Bid: **29.03.2025 at 12:00 Hours**. Further details can be had from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division.

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